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# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

DECEMBER 1995  
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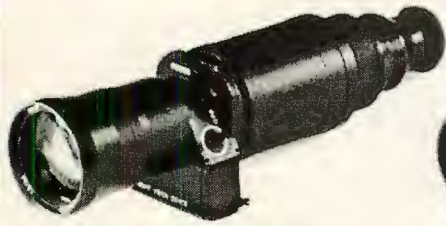
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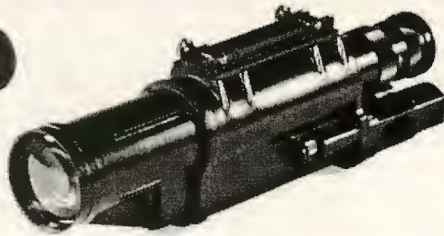


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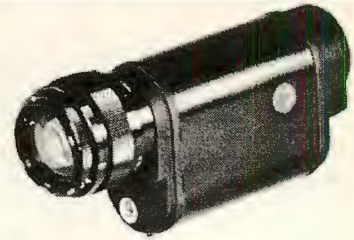
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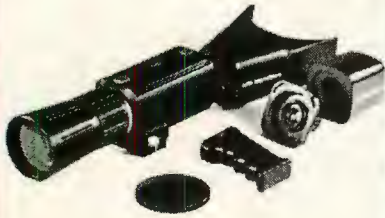
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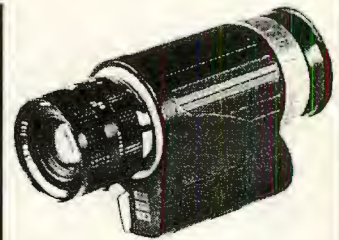


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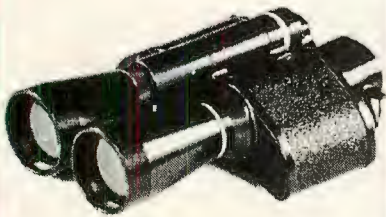


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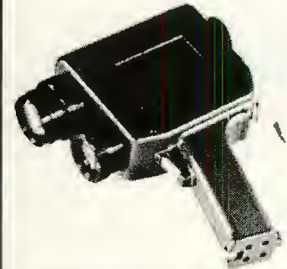


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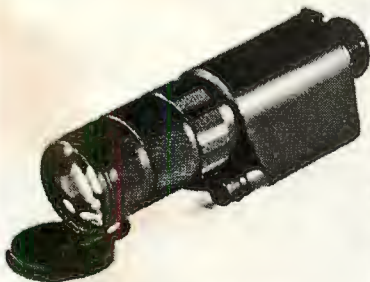


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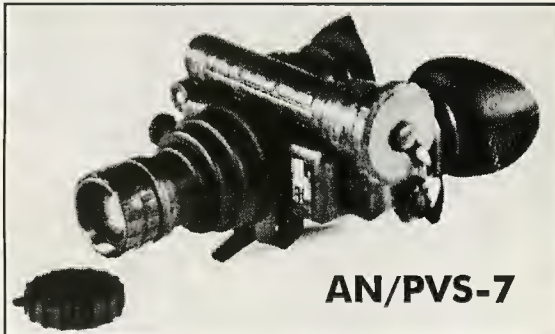
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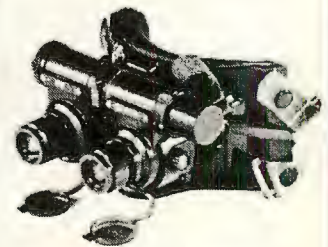
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## All Talk, Little Action

by Robert K. Brown

Congressional hearings make great daytime drama but they're not the answer to what ails federal law enforcement. I believe it's time for Congress to create an office of special prosecutor to provide critical accountability in this area. It is well within accepted practice for Congress to take this step and I believe it is a move necessary to restore citizen confidence in the fairness of the federal government.

During congressional hearings on the conduct of federal law enforcement at Waco and the siege of the Weaver family at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, it became clear that the agents involved

considered themselves to be fighting a war. Testimony revealed that members of the FBI used deadly force against American civilians while operating under rules of engagement far less strict than those officially allowed U.S. troops fighting enemy soldiers in Vietnam, Panama, Iraq and Somalia.

It would seem that federal law enforcement in general might have learned something about the liabilities of military-style actions against Americans at Ruby Ridge and certainly from the experience at Waco. But, what BATF seemed to have learned from these fiascoes is that they need more firepower. You only have to look at their eagerness to acquire OV-10 Bronco counterinsurgency aircraft

and the persistent reports of their agents training on Bradley infantry fighting vehicles to understand this.

Congressional hearings on Waco and the abuses of federal law enforcement began with strong intentions, but when the time came to ask critical questions, few hardballs were thrown. These hearings were supposed to set the

record straight, identify the guilty parties and see that they received punishment. But that didn't happen. It didn't happen because the investigation was led by elected officials more interested in their political viability

than in asking the hard questions required to get at the truth.

This situation has turned congressional hearings into somewhat of a joke and has made it obvious that federal law enforcement cannot be expected to investigate itself. The only answer I see is for the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee to consider the creation of a permanent special prosecutor to investigate and bring to justice the flagrant abuses of federal law enforcement power that might otherwise be covered up. I think that step has become more than necessary when the BATF is allowed to view America as a battleground. In light of what's happened, I believe the American people deserve no less. ✕



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Executive Outcomes' merc army routs rebel cannibals in Sierra Leone and in the process avenges the death of *SOF* staffer Robert MacKenzie. **32**

### **AMATEURS & ASSASSINS**

**James L. Pate**

In addition to obtaining photos of FBI sniper Lon Horiuchi — who opted not to testify for fear of incriminating himself — we find much damaging new information at the congressional hearings on the Ruby Ridge standoff. **38**

### **SpecOps Sidearm: WILSON'S CQB .45** **Peter G. Kokalis**

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**James L. Pate**

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### **SHADOW WAR** **F. C. Brown**

New book lifts secrecy surrounding America's Laos involvement during the Vietnam War: Explosive action combines with outstanding scholarship for a first-rate read. **56**

### **HARD ROAD HOME** **Paul Hogan**

After weeks of planning and running the deadly gauntlet of Serb artillery and sniper positions to get into Sarajevo, there is still the little matter of getting back out. **58**

### **TOP NOTCH — TOP SECRET**

**John Plaster**

America loses one of its best with the death of Dick Meadows. Whether nabbing POWs in North Vietnam or operating in downtown Tehran, Meadows was the all-American boy — with a CAR-15. **64**



Mark H. Milstein





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James L. Pate

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## COVER

American troops return fire with M79 grenade launchers during Vietnam War. But are they actually in Vietnam? At the time the official government line was that American military forces were not operating in the bordering countries of Laos and Cambodia. The truth, however, was that American air, ground and intelligence assets were conducting a secret war against the North Vietnamese in these countries. Ken Conboy's dynamite new book details the extensive U.S. involvement in Laos. Article on page 56.



DoD



Al J. Venter

Not RUF Enough — page 32



# BULLETIN BOARD

## LAND OF THE RISING BUDGET

According to the *Japan Daily Digest*, the Japan Defense Agency is seeking an additional ¥6.2 billion (\$63 million) to establish an "intelligence headquarters" with a staff of 1,650 men. If approved, this would boost the slated Japanese defense budget for FY 1996 to ¥4.86 trillion (nearly \$50 billion) — Japan's largest defense budget since World War II.

In an unrelated story, *Defense News* reports that Japan is considering restricting the export of low-precision machine tools, such as lathes, that could be used to fabricate weapons, as part of an overall review of its export policy.

## "DEATH CLOCK" SPONSOR NAILED FOR \$71.5 MILLION

Robert E. Brennan, the New Jersey millionaire who sponsored the "Death Clock" in New York City through his anti-gun Dehere Foundation, has been ordered by a federal court to pay a \$71.5 million judgment to the Security and Exchange Commission, the largest ever won in a penny-stock fraud case. And the tab could go higher. Asserting that the frauds proven in civil trial are "in all probability only the tip of the iceberg," U.S. District Judge Richard Owen ordered the appointment of a special agent to continue the investigation.



## BINOS FOR RHINOS

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy Trust, the only registered welfare trust for the severely endangered black rhino in Zimbabwe, is the recipient of gener-



When the tough nuts do rest, it's on a bed of nails; and (inset) they don't carry water the easy way, either. Men of the Bob Taylor and associates team live up poolside activities at the Sands in Las Vegas during the SOF convention.

ous equipment donations for its game scouts to support their anti-poaching

Photos courtesy Darrell Basham



An American hero has passed from the scene. George Losee Nyfeler was born and raised in Texas, attended Rice University, and in 1956 entered Army OCS. After receiving his commission and completing artillery school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Nyfeler was stationed in Germany and later with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg. Completing the SF qualification course, Nyfeler went to Vietnam to command an A-Team in 1963; he returned in 1964 to command another A-Team, and again in 1965 to command Battery B, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Captain Nyfeler planned and commanded the first heliborne artillery assault in Vietnam, and in the aftermath of this assault received the wounds that would ultimately force his retirement.

While leading a recon party, Nyfeler's convoy was ambushed and although seriously wounded, he rallied his men to defeat their attackers. Nyfeler spent 18 months in Walter Reed Army Hospital, where he received a promotion to major and his second Purple Heart and second Bronze Star.

Nyfeler will be remembered for his years of service to the National Rifle Association. As a local representative for Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, he worked with the legislatures of all three states for some 12 years to defend Americans' Second Amendment rights.

By those of us who shared his campaigns, his ideals and his love of liberty, George Nyfeler will be sorely missed.

courtesy Bill Nyfeler

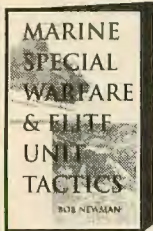
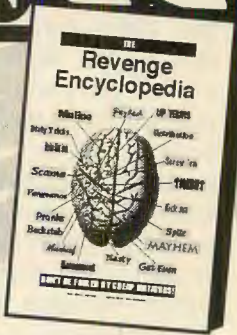




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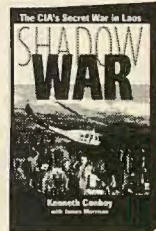


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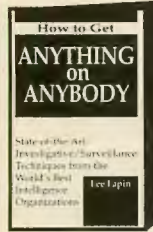


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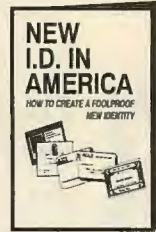


### CARLOS HATHCOCK: MARINE SNIPER

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with Carlos Hathcock

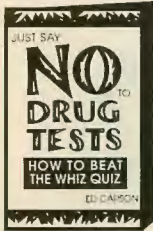
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and rhino monitoring efforts. Navy Arms/Parker-Hale is donating 50 rifles, two night-vision scopes, plus knives, kit bags and other personal gear. Remington Arms Co. is donating rifle and shotgun ammo and has expressed interest in making this an annual donation. Bushnell/Bausch and Lomb Sports Optics Division has donated 15 pairs of binoculars plus free servicing for life.

Anyone interested in personally supporting the conservancy's efforts to save the endangered black rhino can contact Cleve Fairey, conservancy vice chairman, at P.O. Box 428, KweKwe, Zimbabwe, or via fax: 011-263-55-3672. The Midlands Conservancy in central Zimbabwe comprises some 230,000 acres of suitable and secure habitat.

**BUT HOW MANY TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB?**

An *SOF* reader received a reply from his congressman quoting an FBI spokesperson who estimated the bureau employs "approximately 1,000 individuals trained with SWAT-type [whatever *that* means] skills" and that the DEA has "one group in each of their 19 field divisions" so trained.

Getting back to the question above, we have no idea how many feds it takes to screw in a light bulb but it takes *six* to lift a feather, as Monticello, Illinois, housewife and handicrafter Peg Bargon found out. Bargon makes Indian-style "dream-catcher" hangings to sell at craft fairs, and at the suggestion of a local Democratic leader sent one to Hillary Rodham

Clinton, and received a nice thank-you note in response. Unfortunately she decided to use an eagle feather she picked up off the ground at the zoo on the dream-catcher for the First Lady — and when this came out in a paper, the Feather Police from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service glommed the dream-catcher from the White House, then staged a six-man raid on the Bargon home. "Six agents swooped down on my house, ransacked my property, confiscated feathers they found and launched an investigation into my craft-making activities." Bargon faces a possible \$100,000 fine and a year in federal prison. Commented a F&WS spokesman, "Ignorance of the law and claiming that the feathers were found are no excuse.

Rules are rules." Does your momma know what you do for a living? Get a real job. All six of you. We just wish the six F&WS commandos had a feather ... well, never mind.

**MILITARY MONEY FOR MANTRAS AND MAMMARIES?**

One million dollars of defense money under a U.S. Army grant is going to study the effects of meditation and diet on breast cancer. Conducted at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center by epidemiologist James R. Herbert, the goal is to find out how good nutrition or meditation affect the patient's quality of life. "Ultimately we'd like to see if there is any effect on survival, although we may not be able to answer that definitely," he said.

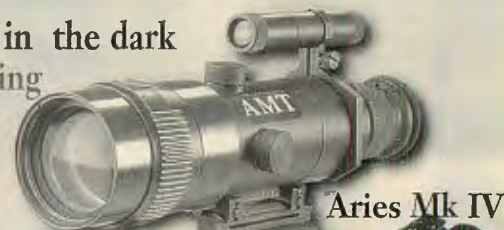
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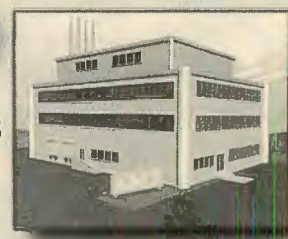


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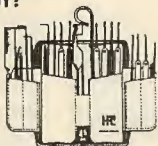
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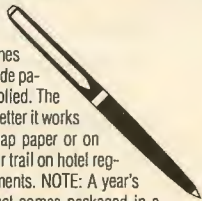
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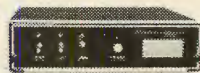


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## NEW COLD WAR?

Described as a "great solution" in light of "the defense's poor economy," igloos are being investigated by the Swedish army for use in the defense of northern Sweden, because of their strength against attack and ability to block infrared radiation.

A team commanded by Colonel Per Mohlin built a test 6 by 40 by 6-meter igloo within days, with walls 1.2m thick at the base and 60cm at the top, which withstood 120mm mortars and 155mm artillery rounds with "negligible effect." Aerial IR images showed personnel outside, while those inside went undetected. The igloos are viewed as being of possible use for storage, headquarters, field hospitals and chopper bases. More tests are scheduled.

## THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND, THIS LAND IS MINED LAND

There are an estimated 80 to 100 million deployed land mines awaiting a victim in some 64 different countries. They claim about 500 victims a week, most of them civilians and many of them children. Approximately 80,000 mines were extracted in 1993 — but

2.5 million were sewn. The countries with the preponderance of mines already sewn are Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia, which combined suffer 22,000 casualties a year, roughly 85% of the world total.

## COMMITTEE OF 1776

The Committee of 1776 Inc. recently completed their second annual rally

in support of the Second Amendment. It is their intention to have a third rally between April and September 1996. If you would be interested in helping to organize or otherwise support this rally, contact: The Committee of 1776 Inc., P.O. Box 767, Powell, TN 37849.

## WAITING PERIOD SAVES LIVES

Since the Golden Gate Bridge opened for business in 1937, nearly 1,000 people have jumped from it to their deaths. Could this tragedy have been prevented if only a waiting period were mandatory? We note that proportionally many fewer people jump from the San Francisco Bay Bridge — where there is a waiting period of about half an hour to get through the chronically choked toll booths. ☒



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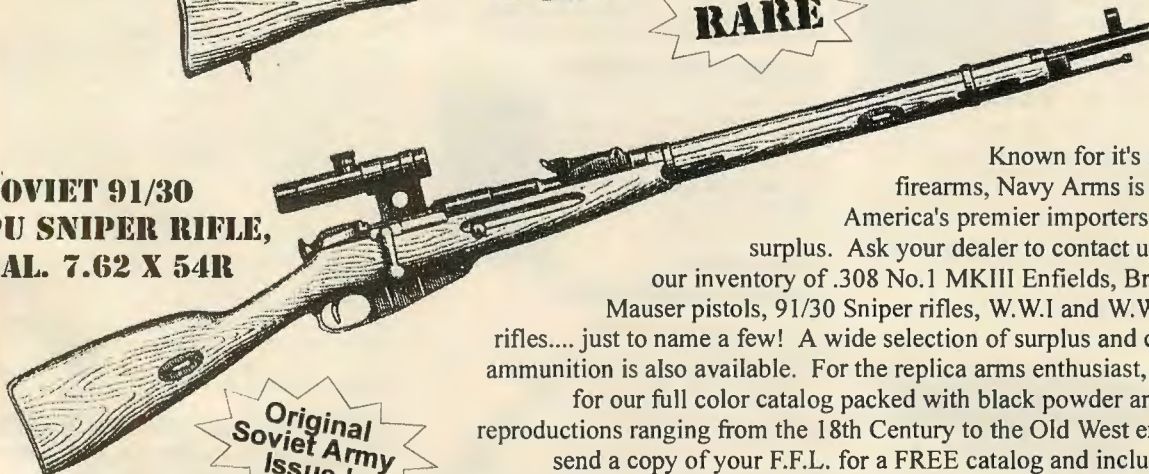


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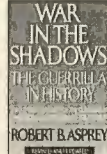
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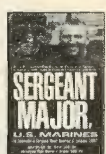
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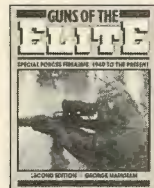
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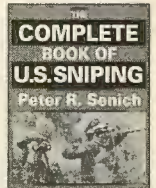
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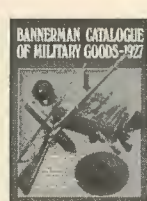
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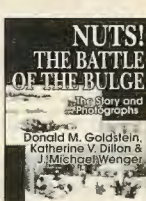
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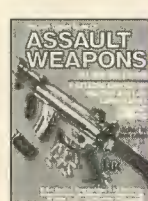
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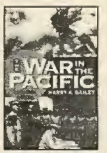
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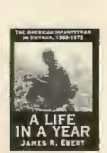
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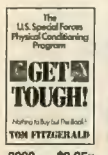
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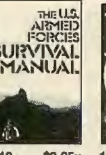
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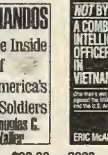
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## Cutting Your Case Down To Size

by Peter G. Kokalis

**D**uring firing and full length resizing, brass cases stretch — this can adversely affect headspace, chamber pressure and accuracy. By composition and through an annealing process, brass as used to form cartridge cases is a relatively “ductile” material. Ductile means that a substance readily deforms plastically without rupture. It is the opposite of “brittle.” Brass cases can become brittle because of repeated resizing and they then must subsequently be re-annealed. Different lots of brass can exhibit varying degrees of ductility.

An example of how important the concept of ductility can be to small arms ammunition is found in the story of the ill-fated caliber 7.62x51mm NATO U.S. M73 coaxial machine gun that was mounted on the M60 Main Battle Tank. Its many glaring deficiencies included a springy (yielding) locking system that caused case separations under high pressure. So severe were the M73's problems that when it was initially fielded in 1961, selected lots of ammunition were provided for its use.

Due to its locking system, the M73 would function without case separations only with cartridge cases in which the annealing process had kept the case hardness gradient on the soft side

of the permissible milspec range of ductility. However, if the cases were too ductile they would fail to extract and their rims would be torn off.

As a consequence, 12 specifically designated lots of ammunition were authorized. Most of these were Winchester-Western as their cartridge cases were usually a little softer than either Frankford Arsenal, Lake City Arsenal or Remington.

In addition, Frankford Arsenal spent untold millions of dollars attempting to produce 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition within the extremely narrow ranges tolerated by the M73. Finally, the U.S. Army ended up with two types of linked 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition in the pipeline: that which could function in, and was thus authorized for use with, the M73 and all other caliber 7.62x51mm NATO machine guns; and that which would *not* function in the M73, but could be used in all other caliber 7.62x51mm NATO machine guns!

While these lots of

more ductile cartridge cases for the M73 machine gun have long ago disappeared from the surplus brass market, the fact is that all brass cases will stretch to a greater or lesser degree when they are reworked repeatedly. Strangely enough, after fir-

ing, the area of the chamber that prevents any further forward movement of the cartridge case as the round is chambered. For a rimmed revolver case (.38 Special, .44 Magnum), headspace is measured from the bolt face to the rear of the barrel where the front end of the rim rests. Belted cases (such as .458 Winchester Magnum and .300 Winchester Magnum) headspace on the forward edge of the belt. Straight, rimless cases (such as .45 ACP) headspace from the bolt face to a square shoulder in the chamber that contacts the case mouth. On semi-rimmed cases (.32 ACP), headspace extends from the front edge of the rim to a stop in the chamber just forward of the case mouth. Most rimless military rifle cases (5.56x45mm NATO, 7.62x51mm NATO, .30-06 and 7.92x57mm) seat in the chamber on the tapered shoulder which connects the body of the cartridge to the neck. On these cases headspace is measured from the bolt face to a specific reference point on shoulder of the chamber (often referred to as the datum line on the cartridge case itself).

If a stretched case is reloaded without trimming, it can approximate what would occur if the chamber was reamed with in-



Brass cases must be trimmed. If the neck of a stretched case protrudes into the barrel's throat, it can lead to a potentially dangerous increase in chamber pressure. Dillon's Rapid Trim 1200B trims cases with the same stroke that resizes them.

courtesy Dillon Precision

ing, but before resizing, military brass cases are usually somewhat shorter than originally, as the case pushes outward in the chamber upon expansion of the propellant gases. It's during resizing that the case will grow in length.

Headspace can be best defined as that distance from the bolt face to an

**Continued on page 15**



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Every newspaper and magazine article and every radio and TV story discussing some new episode involving "bugging" devices, continues to increase the ever growing demand for electronic Counter-Surveillance "sweeps" and equipment. The very limited supply of competently trained and equipped Counter-Surveillance specialists has created a situation where "sweep" rates exceeding \$250 per hour are now considered reasonable and appropriate.

This is an exciting, immensely interesting and profitable field that you can enter with a minimum investment. Two hours actual practice with the CSD-18 will have you "reading" and "clearing" telephones and rooms with professional ease and competence. The average fee for "debugging" a single telephone is over \$200.00. It requires about 45 minutes to complete the job and once it gets around that YOU can provide this service, you'll quickly have more clients than you can handle. Even if you choose to provide "sweeps" for only a small number of friends and associates, your initial investment will quickly be returned many times over.

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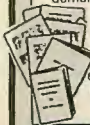
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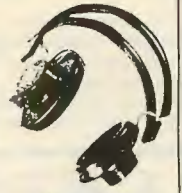


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This is our finest piece of detection equipment! The CSD-18 quickly locates electronic eavesdropping devices in telephones, homes, offices, vehicles, boats, or concealed on the body. It will actually pick up many eavesdropping transmitters at ranges exceeding 25 feet! Extreme sensitivity is obtained via ultra-efficient amplification circuitry following the RF detection stages. Excellent quality Dynamic Headphones exclude all external sounds to further enhance detector output.

The presence of any "bug" is immediately indicated via a pronounced meter deflection. The CSD-18 quickly "homes-in" on eavesdropping transmitters and immediately pinpoints their location. The closer you get to the "bug", the further the needle moves to the right. It's as simple as that.



FULL RANGE DYNAMIC HEADPHONES

### "FLASHING" LED Warns You Instantly!



And, for maximum telephone security, the CSD-18 automatically analyzes a sophisticated series of electronic measurements along the telephone line and converts the analysis into an easy to follow, step by step, test procedure. No technical knowledge is required or necessary. A visual indication (via a flashing LED) immediately reveals the presence of the various types of telephone "taps" and the flashing sequence identifies the actual type of eavesdropping device.

### MAXIMUM SECURITY - EASY OPERATION!

Latest Space-Age solid-state IC circuitry designed exclusively for maximum security and ease of operation, assures the utmost privacy protection possible today against virtually all types of room "bugs" and telephone "taps". The CSD-18 connects directly into the phone line as easily as an extension telephone and includes multi-line option for testing business telephones.



### THE ONE "BUG" TO FEAR MOST!

While most individuals are now somewhat guarded in their telephone conversations, they still rather naively feel secure in the "privacy" of their own home or office. However, the most common type of tap presently used by eavesdroppers picks up ALL SOUNDS AND CONVERSATION WITHIN A ROOM...WITH THE TELEPHONE STILL ON THE HOOK!

Due to this devastating capability, this "Infinity" tap (variously referred to as Infinity Transmitter, Hookswitch Bypass, 3rd Wire, Harmonica Bug, etc.), has become the "bug of choice".

In flagrant violation of federal law prohibiting their use and sale, these devices in various forms are openly advertised in many technical publications for as little as \$75. Literally thousands of these devices are now in the hands of unscrupulous individuals all over the country!

In response to this ever-growing threat, a uniquely engineered feature of the CSD-18 now also detects Infinity type devices anywhere "down the line".

In other words, if anyone ... ANYWHERE ... is utilizing the telephone tip end/or ring wires to monitor your private room conversations while your telephone is on the hook, you'll immediately be made aware of it via a flashing LED!

#### 100% POSITIVE INDICATION

The CSD-18 also flawlessly detects "Series" and "Parallel" telephone transmitters and "Telephone Recording Devices". And, a separate feature silently indicates when extension phones are picked up or being used. The CSD-18 completely eliminates all doubt and guesswork.

#### EXCLUSIVE "LISTEN-IN" FEATURE!

The CSD-18 will even allow you to "listen-in" to exactly what the eavesdropper is monitoring. And, without the eavesdropper ever becoming aware that he has been detected! We are unaware of ANY other detection equipment having this combined capability AT ANY PRICE!

### MAXIMUM PROTECTION

The CSD-18 provides maximum protection against ALL major categories of surveillance equipment including:

- ALL TYPES OF "CONCEALED TRANSMITTERS"
- "BUMPER BEEPERS"
- "INFINITY" DEVICES
- "BODY" TRANSMITTERS
- "TELEPHONE RECORDING DEVICES"
- "SERIES" & "PARALLEL" PHONE TRANSMITTERS

CSD-18 \$ **295** Complete

Including batteries, antenna/probe, headphones, all plugs & adapters, extensive information package and instructions.

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# Professional Locksmithing Tools

## LOCKAID

Specifically designed to pick tumbler locks. Designed over thirty years ago to aid law enforcement agencies. Consists of tension wrench, three needles and Lockaid "Gun." Prices include a copy of the book "Lock Picking Simplified."  
**Lockaid \$69.95**



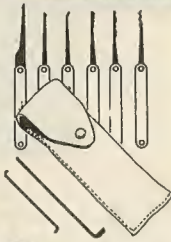
## PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of **warded picks** is included. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a Low price of:  
**Pix 13 \$42.95**



## PXP 8

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.



**PXP 8 \$24.95**

## PXP 10

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 13 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.



**PXP 10 \$34.95**

## PIX-EZ All-In-One Pick-Set

100% American Made!  
 As convenient to carry and use as a pocket knife!  
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**\$34.95**



## WKS PICKS

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**\$9.95**



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1-SESAMEE DECODER .....	\$17.95
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1-DOUBLE SIDED TUMBLER PICKS .....	\$27.95

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Combination Locks	\$8.50
Keys by Impressioning	\$7.00
Key Casting Manual	\$8.95
Locks, Picks, Clicks	\$10.00

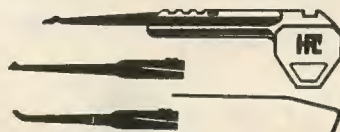


## ESP-13

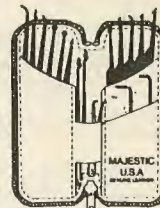
This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5 piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.  
**ESP-13 \$45.95**



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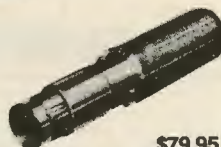
## MD16

Shirt Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 16 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.  
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Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disc tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks.  
**\$29.95**



## MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute.  
 A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.  
**\$79.95**

## SESAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.  
**\$17.95**



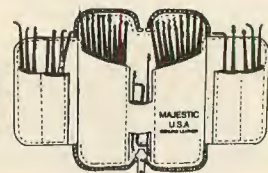
## SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.  
**\$29.95**



## MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor.  
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## MD60

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Continued from page 12

sufficient headspace. The cartridge may still chamber as the force of the bolt moving forward, either by hand or mechanical means, will often be sufficient to drive the cartridge five- or six-thousandths of an inch beyond the point where it first seats. In essence the case is "crush fit" into the chamber. This especially holds for rimless cases, as a rimmed or semi-rimless case cannot be driven much beyond its headspace limit. In this instance, a rimless case's forward headspace point is changed from a datum line on the shoulder to the stretched case's mouth.

Under these conditions, if a bolt-action shooter loads one round slowly and gently and the next rapidly and with great force, or if a gas-operated

rifle or machine gun drives the reciprocating parts with erratic energy (due to the recoil spring system, increased fouling, dissipation of lubricants, etc.), the seating of a stretched cartridge case in the chamber will vary. This, in turn, will affect the force of the firing pin's strike upon the primer which can influence the uniformity of ignition enough to increase the group dispersion significantly.

However, even more important is the fact that the neck of a stretched case can protrude into the barrel's throat, constricting the bullet and impeding its initial forward movement. This usually leads to a potentially dangerous increase in chamber pressure.

In fact, caliber .30-06 and 7.62x51mm NATO military brass should be

trimmed after the first firing. Caliber 5.56x45mm NATO military brass should be trimmed no later than after the second firing. There are two ways to trim cases. You can sit for days at the reloading bench laboriously cranking by hand on a Forster or similar type case trimmer. Or, you can attach a Dillon Rapid Trim 1200B to your Dillon progressive reloader and trim your cases with the same stroke that resizes them.

As you push the case into the special size/trim die, a 1/4 horsepower electric motor drives a carbide cutter to trim the case to its proper length. Brass chips are drawn off through a vacuum manifold that clamps to the outside of the die. A shop vacuum is required, but not included. The Dillon RT 1200B costs \$165 complete with one size/

trim die. Extra size/trim dies are only \$25.

You must use a Dillon headspace case gage with the Rapid Trim 1200B to verify that the sizing die is adjusted correctly. Dillon sizing dies for rimless cases that headspace on the shoulder are not machined to industry standards. They are adjustable and permit the user to choose the headspace he prefers.

It was formerly assumed by many that the proper fix for problems associated with the use of reloaded ammunition in semiautomatic rifles was the use of so-called "small base" sizing dies. Mike Dillon determined long ago that the base size was not the problem. It was instead the fact that the case shoulders were often too far forward. The

Continued on page 67

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# WORLD SITREP

1

## UNITED STATES

Medical study of 10,020 U.S. Gulf War vets indicates there is no single "Gulf War disease," but rather many separate illnesses with overlapping symptoms. Illnesses are likely caused by stress, contamination and diseases rare in the United States but well-known in the Middle East. No specific proof is found of anyone suffering from effects of chemical or biological weapons.

July test flight of shuttle *Discovery* includes tests of the new HERCULES spy camera (Hand-held, Earth-oriented, Cooperative, User-friendly, Location-targeting, Environmental System). Camera is able to track down and photograph a specific house based on a street address.

President Clinton signs an executive order prohibiting the government from denying security clearances solely on the basis of sexual orientation. Such bans were common in previous years because gays were believed to be vulnerable to blackmail.

2

## RUSSIA

President Yeltsin transfers command of Alpha hostage-rescue team from the Kremlin security command to the federal security service: the former KGB.

6

## GREAT BRITAIN

Defense Ministry secures a court injunction to stop publication of the new book *Immediate Action* by a former SAS sergeant who wrote the previous best-seller *Bravo Two Zero* about his secret mission behind Iraqi lines during the Gulf War. Ministry officials fear both books expose too much about SAS operations and could place soldiers at risk in future conflicts.

1

7

## SAO TOME AND PRINCE

Young army officers seize control of the two islands off the coast of Gabon by arresting Miguel Trovoada, the first freely elected president, and set up a five-man junta to rule the country. The coup ends peacefully when parliament grants the officers amnesty and Trovoada resumes his duties.

16

11

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10

## CAMBODIA

Captured Khmer Rouge guerrilla Chuon Mean testifies in court that commander Sam Bo ordered the execution of three Western tourists taken hostage in April 1994. He is sentenced to 15 years in prison for his part in the crime.

11

## COLOMBIA

Rebels execute British hostage Trevor Catton after holding him for two months without receiving a ransom. A search begins for British Staff Sgt. Timothy Cowley who is also believed to be kidnapped. U.S. hostage Thomas Hargrove is released after 11 months in captivity.

12

## PERU

Oscar Alberto Ramirez assumes command of the Shining Path forces after Abimael Guzman is captured. Ramirez has been slowly but steadily rebuilding the combat power and infrastructure of the rebel group.



3

### IRAQ

Two of Saddam's sons-in-law defect from Iraq to Jordan. One is Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel Hassan, head of military industry who had been regarded as the second most powerful man in Iraq (and in charge of the pre-war NBC program and the post-war military and industry buildup). The other is Lt. Col. Saddam Kamel Hassan, head of Saddam's personal bodyguards. The two men are brothers, and also cousins, of Saddam.

4

### SRI LANKA

President Kumaratunga unveils her peace plan, including an offer to merge Tamil-dominated parts of two provinces into a new all-Tamil area allowed to control its own taxes, schools and police. LTTE formerly reject the plan, claiming it does not pave the way for a Tamil state — condemning the island to continued fighting.

5

### INDIA

Harkat-ul-Ansar militant group announces that once Kashmir is freed from Indian rule, they will launch a jihad inside India itself to free other oppressed Muslims.

2

8

### BURMA

Government troops supported by ethnic Wa militia launch an attack on drug warlord Khun Sa's Mong Tai army. Burmese troops claim to be closing in on Khun Sa, who says he wants to retire quietly.

Military leaders meet with Karen rebel negotiators to work out details of future peace talks.

9

### CHINA

Chinese and Filipino officials reach agreement on a code of conduct designed to reduce the chances of an accidental military conflict over the Spratly Islands. This agreement allows both sides to differentiate between a harmless display of determination and the first steps toward combat.

15

3

9

15

### CROATIA

Croatian troops invade rebellious Krajina Province after an intense arty bombardment. Krajina defenses collapse as Croatian troops capture town after town, triggering the greatest mass movement of refugees since the beginning of the war. United States is broadly rumored to have given Croatia a secret "go ahead" signal to simplify the situation.

14

### SOUTH AFRICA

President Mandela rejects U.S. pressure to cancel an oil shipment deal with Iran, but insists he wants good relations with the United States. South African officials announce they will engage in peaceful nuclear cooperation with Iran. South Africa once produced, tested and then dismantled its own nuclear weapon.

13

13

### SOMALIA

U.N. agencies issue an urgent appeal for relief supplies to be delivered to Somalia. Adid's troops try to disarm civilians in Mogadishu, touching off clashes with troops loyal to Ali Mahdi.

14

16

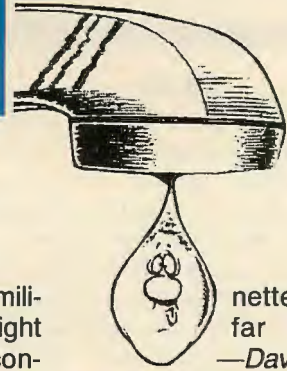
### CUBA

A battery of ZSU-23/4 anti-aircraft weapons is suddenly deployed along the Havana seafont and withdrawn to garrisons the following day without explanation.

World SitRep is excerpted from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas, 79114-8759; subscriptions are \$70 per year (26 issues), \$74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.



# SLICK WILLIE WATCH



## KEEP A DRAFT TO DODGE?

No one has been drafted in this country since 1972 — but it's costing us \$20 million a year not to draft anybody, thanks to the cost of maintaining the dormant Selective Service system. The GOP is targeting Selective Service as a good way to save some tax dollars. You'll never guess who's fighting to keep it: our draft dodger in chief, Bill Clinton. With a straight face and no apologies for the somersaults he turned during the Vietnam War to escape the draft, Clinton wrote to attendees at a

Selective Service employees banquet, "...The armed forces must also know that the general population stands behind them, committed to serve, should the preservation of our national security so require.[]]"

With some 200 paid employees at present, the Selective Service system had more than 8,000 at the height of the Vietnam War. Present director is retired Colonel Gil Coronado (USAF), appointed after he worked for Clinton's presidential campaign in Texas.

Pentagon officials have stated that the current

policy of maintaining a military strong enough to fight two major, regional conflicts at once can be maintained without reinstating the draft.

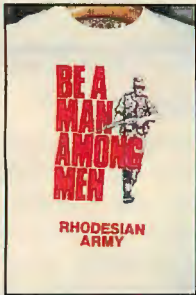
## WHITewater NET, SEASON EXTENDED

The Whitewater prosecutor has won a six-month extension of the special grand jury empaneled for the investigation of the Whitewater land-development project invested in by President and Hillary Rodham Clinton. With this extension, the jury can meet through 23 March 1996. Significant defendants

netted thus far include

—David Hale: former city judge, pleaded guilty in March 1994 to two felony counts of defrauding SBA by misrepresenting amount of private capital in his company, to qualify for higher federal funding. Awaiting sentencing.

—Eugene Fitzhugh: pleaded guilty June 1994 to one count of trying to bribe Hale after being charged with defrauding SBA (with co-defendant Charles Matthews). Sentenced to a year in prison, presently free while suing to withdraw his plea.



1003 Rhodesian



1008 Lucy's Tiger...



1004 H&K



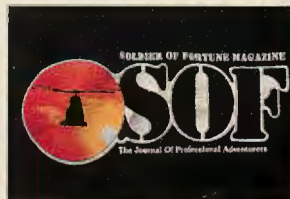
1005 Polo Blk 1006 White



1018 Avenue POW



1011 Nasty Boys\*\*\*



1001 SOF Logo



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—*Charles Matthews*: pleaded guilty June 1994 to two counts of bribery after being charged with defrauding SBA (with co-defendant Eugene Fitzhugh). Serving a 16-month sentence.

—*Robert W. Palmer*: pleaded guilty December 1994 to felony count of conspiracy for filing false appraisals to help cook the books of Madison Guaranty S&L (which failed, costing taxpayers \$65 million). Serving a year of home detention plus three years' probation and \$5,000 fine.

—*Webster Hubbell*: (former deputy attorney general and friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton's) pleaded guilty December 1994 to two felony counts of mail fraud and tax evasion for defrauding clients of \$400,000; serving 21 months in prison.

—*Chris Wade*: White-

water real estate agent, pleaded guilty March 1995 to two felony counts of bankruptcy fraud and submitting false applications and certifications to financial institution. Awaiting sentencing.

—*Neal Ainley*: former president of an Arkansas bank pleaded guilty May 1995 to two misdemeanor counts of failing to report cash transactions of \$30,000 and \$22,500 from Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial campaign. Awaiting sentencing.

—*Jim Guy Tucker*: governor of Arkansas, charged with three felony counts: lying to Hale's company about purpose of a loan, using said loan proceeds as collateral on another loan, illegally devaluing assets to reduce tax liability. Pled innocent June 1995 to these charges, but was accused August 1995 of new

charges including conspiracy, wire fraud, bank fraud, mail fraud and misapplying funds. He has pleaded innocent. Trial is set for 10 October.

—*William J. Marks Sr.*: cable TV developer, co-defendant in Tucker case, charged with same three felonies; pleaded innocent June 1995.

—*John Haley*: Tucker's personal lawyer, accused of one felony count of helping Tucker hide assets to avoid tax liability.

—*Steven Smith*: pleaded guilty June 1995 to one misdemeanor count of conspiracy to misapply proceeds of loan from Hale's company. Awaiting sentencing.

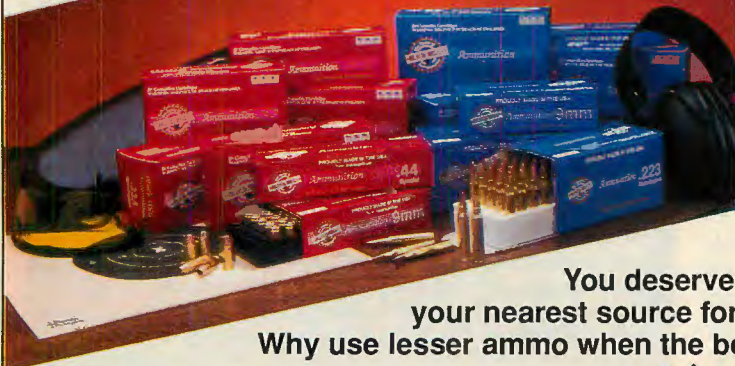
—*Larry Kuca*: pleaded guilty July 1995 to one misdemeanor count of conspiracy to misapply proceeds of loan from Hale's company. Awaiting sentencing.

—*James B. McDougal*: partner with Clintons in Whitewater project, accused August 1995 of 19 charges of conspiracy, bank fraud, misapplying funds, etc., involving loans by Madison Guaranty S&L, which he owned, and Capital Management Services Inc. (owned by Hale) in the mid-1980s. He has pleaded innocent. Trial is set for 10 October.

—*Susan McDougal*: former wife of James McDougal, partner with Clintons in Whitewater project, accused August 1995 of eight charges including conspiracy, wire fraud, bank fraud, mail fraud, misapplying funds. She has pleaded innocent, and said she will never cooperate with prosecutors, accusing independent counsel Kenneth Starr of using threats and intimidation to force a plea bargain. ✕

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# I WAS THERE

## The Chosin Few Who Walked on Water

by Thomas Elliott

**D**ead of winter, 1950. Behind enemy lines, North Korea, just south of Manchuria at the Chosin Reservoir — cited by historians as scene of “the most savage battle in modern warfare,” resulting in 17 Medals of Honor and 70 Navy Crosses awarded, the most for a single battle in U.S. history.

It was minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit on the frozen waters of the Chosin Reservoir. Our mission was to locate and rescue wounded soldiers trapped behind Chinese lines. Our mission leader was Lieutenant Colonel Olin Beall, USMC, known as “a tough old bird,” even though he didn’t wear the eagle of a full colonel. Not a young man, Beall was built like a bull, strong as an ox, and tenacious as a bulldog.

I first met Beall on the ship carrying us to Korea. He was my CO in the 1st Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Marine Division. As CO, he presided over my court martial for questioning the ancestry of a young naval officer who queried me regarding general orders when on guard. After some fatherly advice, Beall reduced me a stripe, stipulating I could regain my corporal stripes sometime after reaching our destination.

A month after the amphibious landing at Inchon, we moved into North Korea. Our move-

ment northward through the mountains of North Korea came to a halt when 15,000 Marines and 4,000 soldiers were surrounded. The 80-mile route to the sea was severed by 120,000 ChiCom soldiers.

Hagaru-ri was the central hub for U.S. forces, containing logistics for a sustained drive toward China. On the right flank, east of the Chosin Reservoir, two Army regiments (31st and 32nd of 7th Division), were advancing along a narrow dirt road parallel to the reservoir. On the left flank, two Marine regiments (5th and 7th Marines) were in the mountainous region near the hamlet of Yodamni. When Chinese forces poured from the hills, both Army and Marine units had to fight their way back to Hagaru. After several days of intense fighting, the Marines returned as an organized fighting force, but the Army was clobbered in the open and defenseless terrain east of the Chosin.

On the defensive perimeter at Hagaru, the sector assigned to B Company faced north across the barren reservoir. Truck drivers and mechanics lay in the snow for eight

hours. On the other side of the perimeter, the silence was occasionally

and we saw ghost-like movement on the ice as hundreds of soldiers approached. Some were limping, some crawled, others were carrying or dragging their buddies. As they passed through our line, most were crying and



Thomas Elliott



Marines of the 5th and 7th Regiments who, after hurling back onslaught by three ChiCom divisions near Hagaru-ri on the southern tip of the Chosin Reservoir, reorganized for epic 40-mile fight to the sea. (Inset) Men of B Company, 1st MTB, 1st MarDiv two months later. Author is fourth from left, top row, in aviator’s helmet.

broken by water-cooled machine guns as gunners fired to keep them from freezing.

With word of possible friendlies infiltrating our lines, flares were fired

thanking God for their deliverance. None had expected to see Marines holding Hagaru; they feared we had pulled out south — and that by morning all would be massacred.



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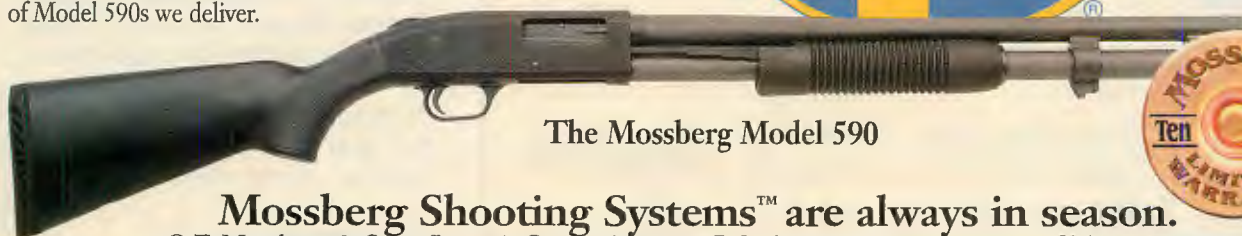
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Beall learned from Army survivors that additional wounded were along the east bank, and from Marine aviators that the Army truck convoy stretched more than four miles. The skipper asked for volunteers.

Moving out slowly with jeeps, trailers, blankets and medical supplies, a dozen of us went up the middle of the reservoir. After an eternity of freezing hell, we came to the burned-out convoy. Hills overlooking the road were honeycombed with Chinese positions. The ice was covered by snow, and thin puffs of white told us they were trying to get our range. Knowing the Chinese were watching through binoculars, Beall had us lay our weapons slowly on the hoods of the jeeps. He ordered two men to pick up their rifles and follow him to the shoreline. Beall didn't carry a rifle himself.

Leaving the riflemen at the shoreline, Beall inspected the trucks, sending walking wounded to the jeeps. Those who couldn't walk were carried. One soldier was so badly shot up, Beall hoisted him over his shoulder and carried him himself. The long walk back to Hagaru was uneventful except other stragglers, all wounded or half frozen, were picked up along the way. A second trip was made by Beall that afternoon when spotter planes saw other groups of men by the shore.

Of the 2,500 Army troops east of the Chosin, only 1,050 survived — 319 of which are credited to Beall and his drivers. A week later, fighting through what seemed like half the population of China, we reached the sea and the transports to carry us south, to fight another day.

Aboard ship, 5,000 men jammed into compartments for 2,500. Searching the ship for a place to stash my gear, I reached the upper decks and "Officer Country." The sign read, "Officer Shower Room; Crew Only." It was empty. I grabbed the opportunity for a quick wash and shave. Stripping to my skivvies, I stashed my gear in a lifeboat. After 10 minutes of hot soapy water, the

Continued on page 81



New, Eye-Opening, Documented  
FREE REPORT Proves ...

# Jerry Peterson, The One And *Only* Creator Of The Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System, Shows You How To Defeat *Any* Fighting Technique On Earth

## Compare This 'Scientific' System With Other 'Wanna-Be' Programs And You'll Instantly See Why It's Required SEAL Training!

Six years ago the Navy SEALs began using a scientific fighting system so powerful that today they're recognized as the most potent fighting force on the face of this earth.

Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first civilian ever to standardize and license a hand-to-hand fighting system to the U.S. Military. Here's how it happened and why it's important to you.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-hand combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had rejected every single martial art form in the world.

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALs were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

### Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's scientific fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually an entire hour, never repeating the same sequences. In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). The SEAL officers, Vietnam vets themselves, figured Jerry at least ought to understand their needs.

But they were totally unprepared for what happened next. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was instantly disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

### 'Blown Away' In Just Minutes

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fighting, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALs into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALs began receiving this

training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALs, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

□ SEALs are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles (this isn't a graceful art form) apply on any terrain.

□ SEALs are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

□ Once, Jerry challenged an entire platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then demonstrated it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today all SEALs use these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEAL platoons go through a minimum of 40 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment.

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

### Devastatingly Powerful

Yet if you expect to use Jerry Peterson's military techniques in civilian situations you're going to get yourself into trouble. Military confrontations are simply not the same as civilian.

What you need to know are methods even the military is not taught.

And now, in the most recent release of his system, Jerry reveals the specific techniques you must know to control any hostile environment situation. It's called *Jerry Peterson's Hostile Control Systems*, and used correctly, this system can make you undefeatable.

In *Hostile Control* you quickly learn (in no more than a day) how to defeat or seriously disable anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one! You get the same devastating power the Navy SEALs use. It's just directed towards civilian confrontations.

### Combat Proven

Everything in this system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam! But please understand.

This is not a course to impress friends at your local Karate studio. It's a professional fighting system.

You won't see Jerry Peterson or his pro-

fessional instructors on the Ultimate Fighting Challenge. This isn't sport fighting. Professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker. And to do it incredibly fast — in 20 years Jerry's longest fight lasted a mere 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles **not** a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will because...

### His System Is Undefeatable

One more thing. Cheap imitators may try to claim they've trained Navy SEALs, but let me explain what they've actually done.

SEAL platoons have discretionary funds they use to bring in all sorts of instructors. For example, they've hired the Evelyn Wood™ company to teach speed reading.

And that's the level these cheap imitators are working at. They've gone in at an 'Evelyn Wood' level and given their program to a platoon — maybe to just 1 or 2 men. But they're not the genuine thing.

Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand combat fighting system used by the U.S. Navy SEALs today.

Want to call these imitator's bluff? Jerry's official Naval Special Warfare course number is K-431-0096. Under the Freedom of Information Act call the Government Information Office and verify for yourself that his course, *Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary System (SCARS)* exists. You won't get details about it because it's restricted.

But ask these Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers what their official government course number is. You'll find they haven't got one!

In fact, if you're in a violent confrontation and all you have is these 'wanna-be' techniques, you might just be safer pulling out a book and trying to impress the assailant with your speed reading skills!

So now you decide. Do you want more 'disguised' martial arts from cheap imitators coming in at the level of Evelyn Wood instructors?

Or will you make the decision the Navy SEALs made — and go with Jerry Peterson, the genuine developer of the official U.S. Navy SEAL combat fighting system!

### Free Special Report

Jerry Peterson has created a **Free special report** which reveals amazing details about his scientific fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALs an undefeatable fighting force.

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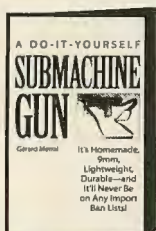
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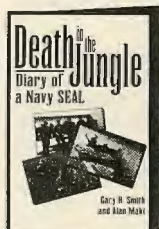
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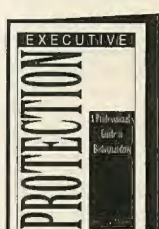
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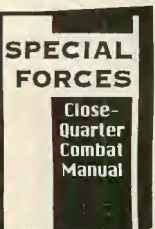
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## WHY BLACK HELOS?

I read the black helicopters article in the August issue with a great deal of interest. I too have scoffed at the plethora of conspiracy theories that have become all too common and completely agree they are total fabrications.

I firmly believe the computer age has left many of the baby boomers grasping for any straw that will allow them to see themselves as being on the side of good in the good vs. evil struggle they imagine exists.

For my part, I believe the conspiracists are clouding a much more serious problem. The problem is the recent tendency of many of our government officials to ignore or circumvent the laws and regulations we pay them to enforce. This was evident at Waco and Ruby Ridge and to me is evidence that black helicopters most certainly exist.

In fact, these aircraft frequently land at the municipal airport at Sikeston, Missouri, and their crews lunch at Lambert's Cafe. I have personally seen the aircraft and could discern no markings of any kind, including tail numbers (which, when I was in the military, were required by the FAA). These birds were touted on local TV as being for rescues and "VIP" flights.

All this begs the question the article never addressed: Why do black helicopters exist at all?

Why does the U.S. Army need unidentifiable, clandestine helicopters in the United States? The answer is likely unperfidious and simple but please do not insult me by claiming black helicopters do not exist.

James Hankins  
Cape Girardeau,  
Missouri

## CANADIAN AIRBORNE CLARIFICATIONS

I am writing in regard to the article "Bad Boys or Bad Press?" from the August *SOF*. The article was very well written except for the following two statements. I feel obligated to write and ask you to please correct these statements.

The article stated: "The military also appealed the sentence of Brown and Matchee's Section Commander Sgt. Mark Boland" and that "the same day he took an overdose of pills, but survived and is back in custody."

I am Sgt. Boland's wife and would like to ask that you amend these statements. First, the regular members of my husband's section did not include MCpl. Matchee. Matchee was first as-

signed to my husband's section on March 16, 1993, after a regular member of the section went home on leave.

Regarding the overdose: Approximately five minutes after my husband had arrived home for lunch he received a phone call telling him his sentence was increased to one year. Shortly thereafter Mark took between eight-11 Lorazepam pills he had received from a doctor on

walked out and got in the ambulance and went to the base hospital.

I just want to make sure the truth comes out. For the past three years there have been lies printed that I feel I must take a stand to correct. My husband has been punished time and time again for this whole ordeal. The public believes that he laid a hand on the boy, but that's not true. His was an act of omis-



base. He was not trying to commit suicide. He was aware these would not harm him. He just wanted to fall asleep and forget about the whole mess for awhile.

My mother was with us at the time and after he took the pills he started talking to her. As he got drowsy my mother panicked and phoned the base ambulance. We all

sion, not commission.

Kim Boland  
Zealand,  
New Brunswick,  
Canada

## WE'RE ALL GOING TO JAIL

I've been a staunch reader and proponent of *SOF* magazine. It provides factual and well-written articles about topics which rarely enjoy de-



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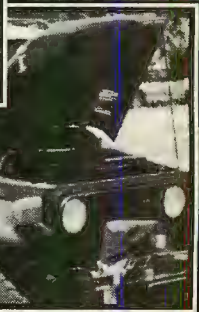
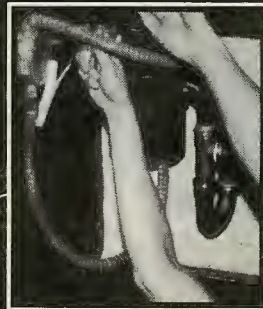
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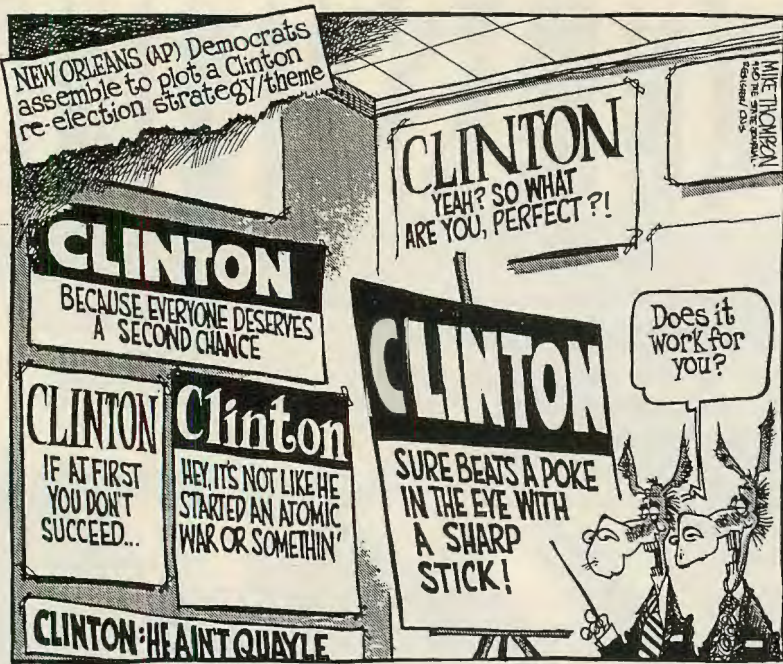
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Item SOF-12





pendable coverage in other publications. This applies especially to conditions in Third World countries. Nevertheless, an item in the September issue caught me completely off guard. At the

end of "Flak" it states: "Send confidential documents, government secrets and your comments on how we're doing to SOF ..."

Individuals have been prosecuted under the es-

spionage statutes and convicted for releasing classified information of the U.S. government to unauthorized recipients. Classified information is the property of the U.S. government. Unauthorized disclosure of such information constitutes theft of government property. Unauthorized recipients do not

have to be agents of a foreign power. Unauthorized recipients are any individuals who are not authorized to receive classified information.

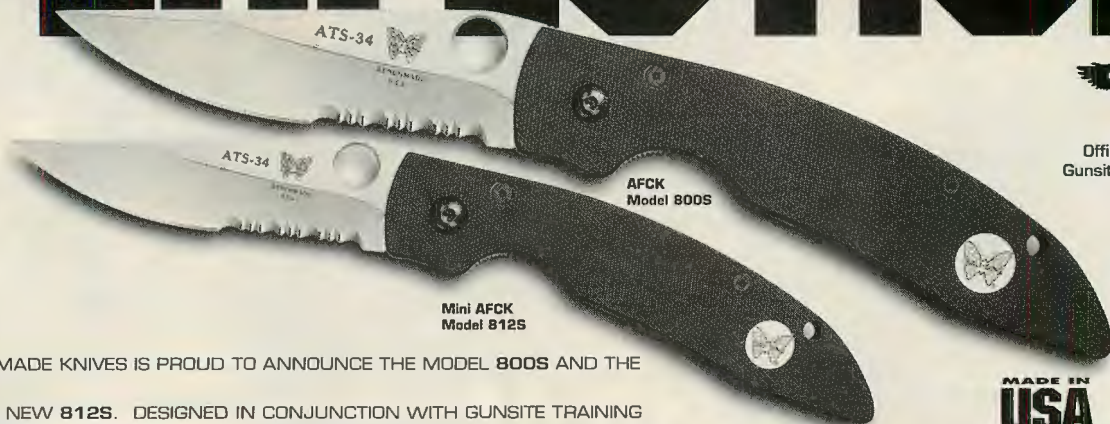
The solicitation in the article encourages individu-

als to commit espionage against our government. I'm not an attorney, but it appears to me that if anyone provided such information to you, and you accepted it, both you and the supplier should be charged and tried for committing espionage.

Peter J. Newman  
Newport News, Virginia

*Lighten up Peter, the statement was written tongue-in-cheek. And while you are technically correct (and we don't publish classified materials for their own sake — see October's "Exposing ATF's Warbirds," for example), it would be a black day for the news business if the feds went after every reporter who published something the government wanted kept secret. Publications have a watchdog function and if we latch onto something the*

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# ANOTHER PEACETIME CASUALTY.

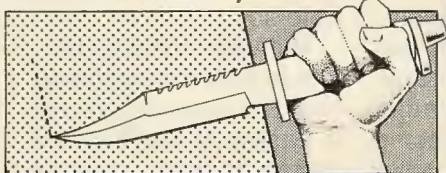
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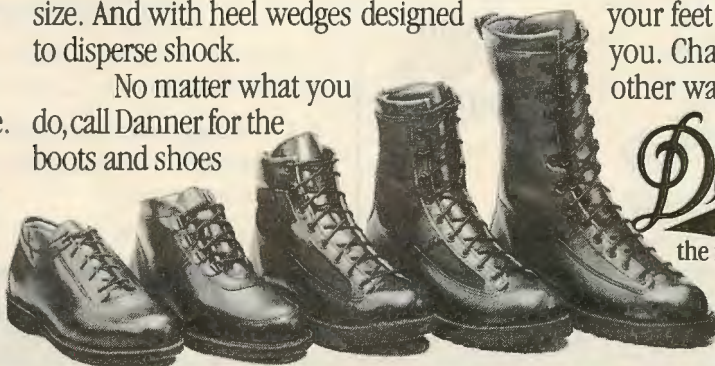
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public deserves to know, we'll print it no matter what classification some bureaucrat decides to stamp on it.

### GOOD COP/BAD COP

In light of continuing revelations about racist, abusive and illegal behavior by cops in Los Angeles, Philadelphia and New York, it seems appropriate to remind ourselves of a basic fact of human behavior: Power corrupts.

Police work is stressful and emotional. The only thing that keeps a good cop from crossing the line is a strong moral character or fear of reprisal, legal or otherwise. Police, out of necessity, are given broad authority and wide latitude to enforce it. It's a position of trust unlike any other in our society, making it difficult to pursue legal action against those who

hold it. Additionally, police and local officials rely on the honesty of the street cop and will vigorously defend their integrity when challenged.

Since the law in most cities bans the carrying or use of weapons for personal protection, both the police and criminals know that law-abiding citizens will be unarmed and/or unable to protect themselves from violent abuse. Under these circumstances, the police and the criminals are in the positions of power with the citizens forced to accept victim status or be branded as criminals. It's a perverted balance of power and it won't change until a citizen's right to defend himself is reestablished in both law and practice.

Jim Kennedy  
Harrisburg,  
Pennsylvania

### SCHOOL OF NO KNOCKS

On the fourth day of the Waco hearings, BATF Agent Ballesteros stated that while the raiding party did not have a "no-knock" warrant, the procedure for this and all BATF warrants was a "dynamic entry." This process calls for agents to rush the door, and "secure" the premises (by jamming handguns and submachine guns into people's faces and bodies), and then, only after brutalizing the inhabitants of the property, produce a warrant. (At Waco, the warrant was left on the seat of a pickup truck throughout the action).

Despite the shocking nature of this revelation, not a single representative followed up with one question on the advisability of armed attacks against citizens suspected of possible firearms viola-

tions, however technical or minor. This glaring omission speaks volumes about the decline of federal law enforcement attitudes toward the public, and also the dereliction of our elected legislators in their supervisory responsibilities.

Eugene A. Barron  
Longmont, Colorado

### HOW TO FIGHT RIGHT

Lately there have been many advertisements for fighting systems in your magazine. These advertisements claim that they feature the same techniques taught to Navy SEALs and feature instructors like Frank Cucci, Paul Vunak and Jerry Peterson.

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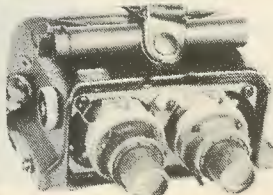
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How about a review of all the systems in an upcoming issue.

M.Q.

Miami, Florida

*If there were simple answers to these questions, there would likely only be one universal unarmed combat "system." However, there are dozens of systems. It's different strokes for different folks, and each martial art takes a slightly different approach to self defense. None is superior in all areas, merely different. Today most come with money-back guarantees, so there's no risk in trying them.*

### ATF USED SECRET AMMO AT WACO?

I'm surprised you didn't take note of Special Agent Jim Cavanaugh's quavering emotional testimony during the Waco hearings in your recent article. He testified something to the effect that Special Agent Kenneth King's body armor was penetrated by a submachine gun.

Wait a minute! Shouldn't BATF body armor (NIJ Class II-III A) withstand a direct hit by a submachine gun bullet (i.e., a pistol-caliber round)? This was, to the best of my knowledge, the first time an ATF agent, or anyone for that matter, revealed what type of weapon inflicted casualties.

This statement lends considerable credence to SOF's "steel tubular, Kevlar-cutting bullet" theory kicked around shortly after the raid. At the time I considered you guys a little far out. I apologize for having doubted; keep up the good work and keep us posted on the activities of the Bureau of Atrocities, Tragedies and Fiascos.

Please don't print my name. Your coverage on Shooter's Equipment Supply indicates substantial vindictiveness on the part of these heavily armed Barney Fife clones.

San Rafael, California

### FIRE OFF SOME FLAK

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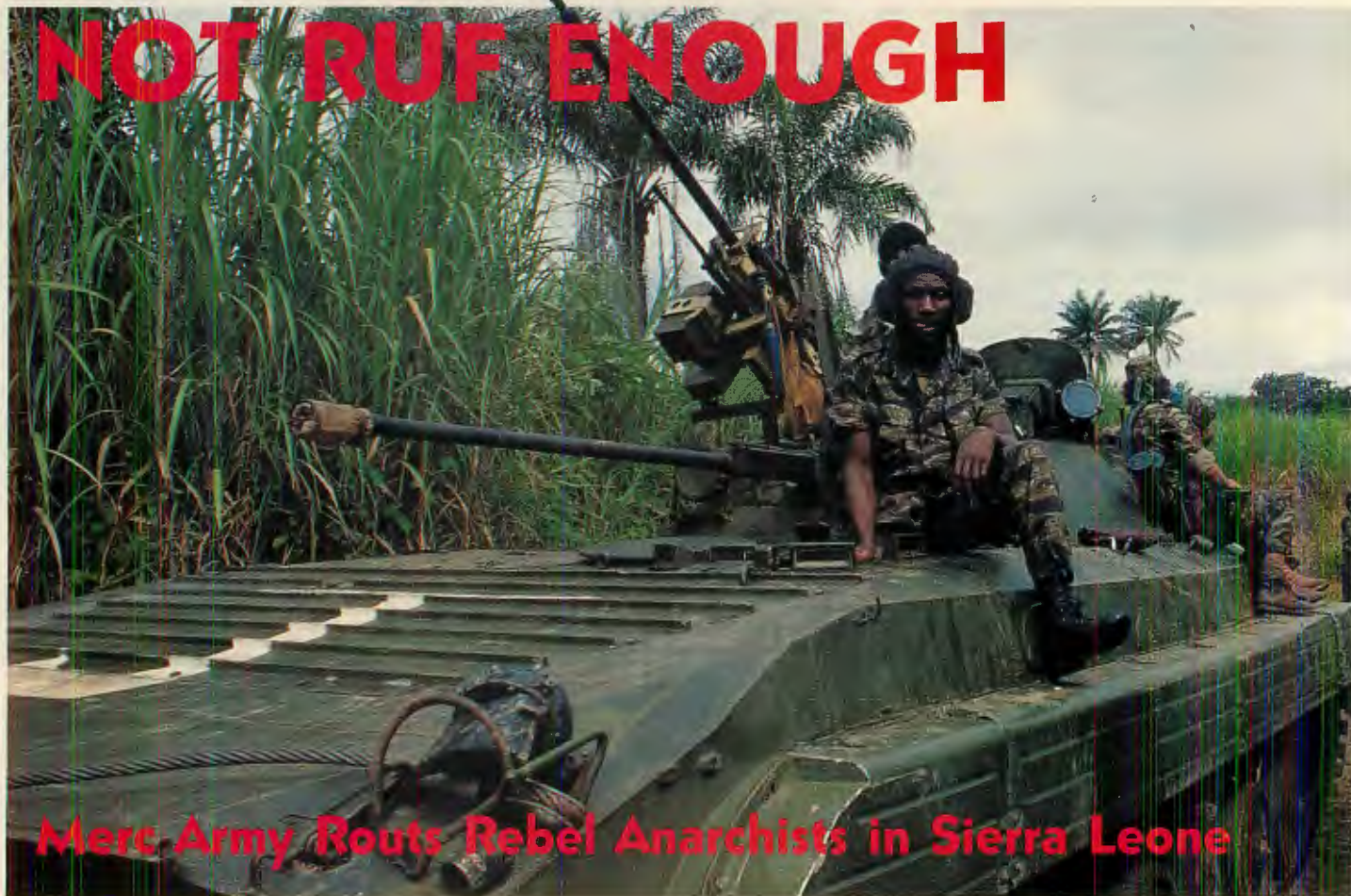
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## I had come to Sierra

Leone on the west coast of Africa to bring home the remains of Colonel Bob MacKenzie (see "Death Of A Warrior, July '95). That was the intention, but it didn't happen like that.

Instead, I found myself immersed in the same bandit insurgency in

which he was killed, with a group of South African mercenaries, many of them former Recce Commando veterans of the war in Angola. They worked under the auspices of a South African contractor called Executive Outcomes (EO).

Colonel Robert MacKenzie had

been killed in a firefight in the Sierra Leone bush on the afternoon of February 23, 1995. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who killed him comprised a few thousand ill-disciplined bandits, mostly disaffected former soldiers and deserters from Sierra Leone military forces, supported by Liberia and augmented by large numbers of local men press-ganged into service on pain of death. Bad as the rebels were, they were at least motivated by the prospect of taking over the country and its rich diamond mines.

Government troops, in contrast, were at that point soldiers in name only. The force MacKenzie newly commanded at Charlie Camp on the main road to Bo—the second-largest town in Sierra Leone—was a poorly trained lot, permanently stupefied with wacky-backy and local rum. Their assigned mission had been to overrun a rebel strong point in the Malal Hills 120 clicks east of Freetown.

These troops are not ready for this kind of action, Bob radioed defense headquarters in Freetown when he



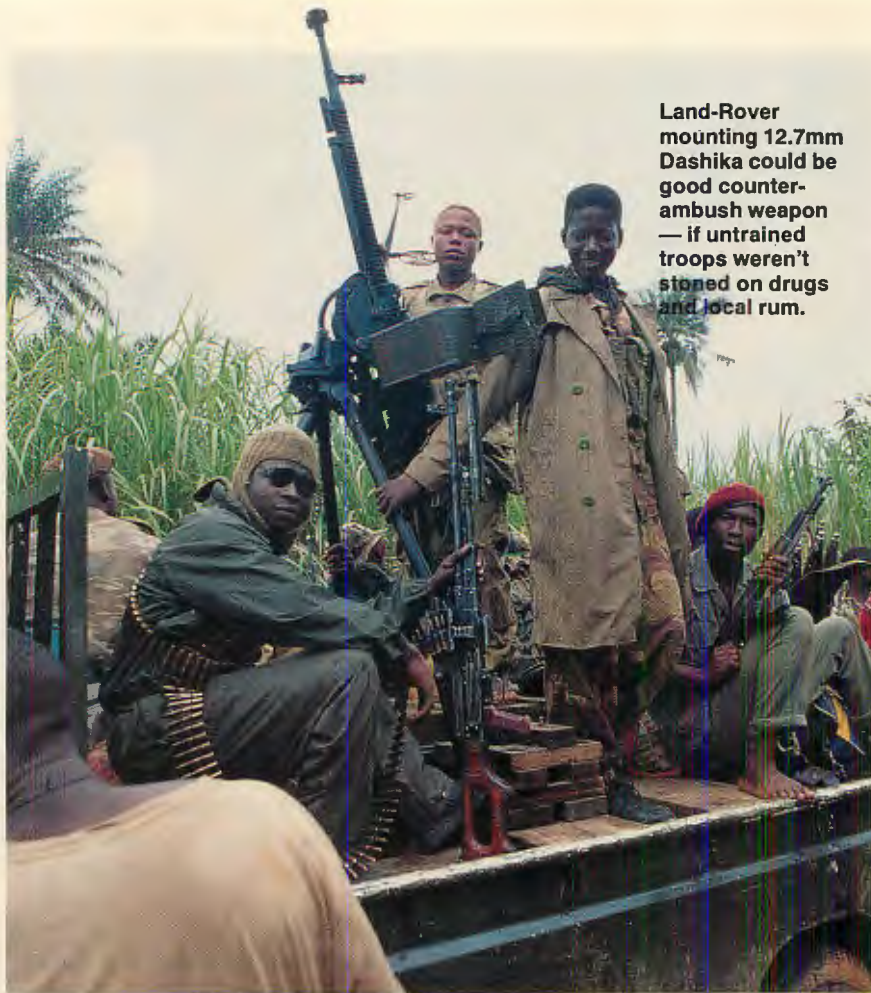
Merc force takes Baiama town, and settles in to "establish a presence" in the area.



**Text & Photos  
by Al J. Venter**



Leading column, BMP-2 moves through heavy overgrowth toward rebel base. In ideal terrain for ambush, BMP's 30mm cannon is good reaction weapon.



Land-Rover mounting 12.7mm Dashika could be good counter-ambush weapon — if untrained troops weren't stoned on drugs and local rum.

first received the order. They do not even know how to fire their weapons properly, he warned.

"No matter," was the reply. "We need a show of force." The loyal MacKenzie paid for his commander's stupidity with his life.

Two other officers were also killed in the first volley of an RUF ambush. The indigenous Sierra Leonian contingent threw down their weapons and, in terror, fled helter-skelter down the hill. Many had already doffed their uniforms by the time they reached the road.

I proposed an attempt to recover Bob's remains to Primo Corvaro, head of the International

Committee of the Red Cross in Freetown. He warned me against taking the matter further: "You do so at the risk of your own life. Anyone who goes near the place will be killed. First, the Malal Hills are still in rebel hands. The RUF are there

in force, and they command the whole region.

"Secondly, mercenaries, as such, have no standing in international law. Even my talking to you about MacKenzie is against our fundamental principles. We are opposed to their presence in Sierra Leone."

"Even though the country is tottering toward the *kind* of anarchy that now prevails in Liberia?" I asked (it was well known that the RUF rebels had come from Liberia when they started the war in 1992). "Mercenaries are unacceptable for any reason," he insisted.

"Lastly, anyone even making inquiries about these mercenaries will be hunted down and killed." He had been given that piece of information during his last meet-



RUF rebels killed after committing atrocities on villagers, too ghastly to print, received their own rough treatment at hands of locals. Payback in West Africa is not kind.





**Executive Outcomes** South African troops prepare for airlifting to eastern sector.

ing with the rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, in a meeting at his base in the south of the country a few weeks before.

It was clear that the sentiments of the local representative of the ICRC were unequivocal; it became even more so shortly afterward when he declined the offer to airlift rice in South African helicopters to starving civilians displaced by the rebels. His approach just did not make sense, but it is no secret that each time Foday Sankoh has a statement to make, he does so through

the good offices of the ICRC.

I did not leave it at that. I went to MacKenzie's successors, the South African company Executive Outcomes, in the hope of getting to where MacKenzie had been shot. I was persistent because Sibyl MacKenzie was having difficulties with Bob's life insurance company: There was no "proof" of his death.

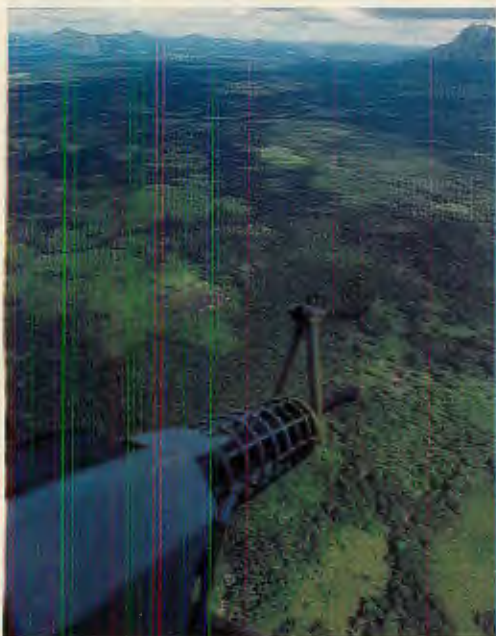
### **Executive Outcomes**

EO is a South African organization that employs former members of the South African special forces to

train and stiffen African armies that are fighting insurgencies. They reversed the war in Sierra Leone within a month of their arrival, a couple of months after MacKenzie's death. They arrived just in time, as by then Foday Sankoh had pursued his conquest to within 20 miles of Freetown.

On my second day at military headquarters I watched a squad of Sierra Leonian troops prepare for convoy duty from Freetown to Bo, about 220 km through mostly bush country. By 1100 hours the entire squad was smashed. By the time they left three hours later they were ready to invade America. The column was hit hard about two hours before dark and the whole lot fled. Not one of them tried to take counter-action until they were well out of range of the attackers.

The result was that 21 of 70-odd vehicles were knocked out and 15 civilians were killed, many stabbed to death because the RUF hadn't enough ammunition to shoot them. While there were about 120 men supposed to be protecting the convoy, they were attacked by only about 40 rebels — of whom only half were armed. Not one of eight or nine RPG rockets fired at the convoy in the ambush found its target; every round exploded harmlessly in the bush. They, too, seem to have had their rations of rum and jamba. Even a modest stand would have driven off the attackers



Sierra Leone appears peaceful, looking down the barrel of flexible 7.62mm door gun at the lush, forbidding, awesome West African jungle.



EO-trained troops wait to board Mi-17 on chopper pad overlooking Kuido, diamond town in the east, and EO's HQ for the area. Mi-17s have proved good transporters and ad hoc gunships for jungle terrain.





Retrained RSLMF troops at the eastern HQ, Kuido. RPG is favorite weapon of both sides in this war, even though all warheads are HEAT and not suited for their mainly anti-personnel role.

or stopped their momentum.

And where was EO? They hadn't been consulted. Previously, all planning of convoys had been the responsibility of EO's Col. Andy Brown. This time Freetown had decided to do their own thing, with disastrous results.

Foday Sankoh's RUF enjoy a great psychological advantage over government forces. His successes in the past have been mainly because of the fearful reputation of the RUF for chopping off hands, legs and arms and eating their enemies.

But when EO was along, and their leadership followed, the results were dramatic. I went with an EO-led unit to attack the RUF base threatening the diamond fields.

Up at 0500, we had to wait for the mist to clear from the jungle and mountains around us. A former Soviet BMP had to be pull-started. These APCs in service with the Sierra Leonians were well-worn. Their tracks were shot and so were their engines. But when operational, their turret-mounted 30mm cannon and PKT machine guns were a godsend — noise seemed to frighten the rebels and these APCs made a lot of it.

### RUF In The Diamonds

When we passed through Kuido, biggest town in the Kono diamond area, the entire community turned up to wave us out. The Sierra Leonian army — with EO support — had driven the rebels from Kuido last June and the locals loved them for it. The

rebels had torched half the town and carried away everything that wasn't bolted down, leaving hundreds of local folk butchered in their wake.

At Woama, a village comprising a dozen wattle homes with tin roofs, we first spotted signs of rebels. The civilians had fled long ago, but someone was living there. Half-peeled fruit littered the roadside. Pots stood alongside still-smoldering fires and a cluster of rickety stools showed where there had been a gathering.

Minutes outside Woama was the first primitive — but effective — rebel early warning system: corrugated iron sheets drawn across the road, one laid over the other. Vehicles crossing caused the iron to screech and buckle. It would have given good warning of an approach at night.

Two more hours of grinding through the jungle over some of the worst roads anywhere brought us to within a few miles of Baiama. Once a bustling village with a post office and a Roman Catholic church, it had been thoroughly trashed by the rebels.

boo struts and elephant grass, over which they laid a thin layer of soil. The traps would have been efficient had we not been forewarned — it could have taken days to dig out a BMP by hand.

Then came Baiama and the first serious ambush. RPGs exploded half a dozen times in the jungle canopy above our heads. The 30mm cannons on the BMPs quickly retaliated. It wasn't a concerted attack and we took no casualties. Our troops had killed some rebels at a brick building where they had made an initial stand, but we had to first clear the area before we could recover their bodies. More RPG blasts, then several answering volleys of AK fire and the distinctive *duk-duk-duk* of the cannon.

Our troops, black and white (with a ratio of about eight to one), had deployed on both sides. The Mi-17 troop ships were circling overhead and their rattling 7.62s provided adequate top cover.

I stuck close behind the lead BMP as the vehicles moved forward an-



Smashed on rum and wacky-backy, this Sierra Leonian contingent was to have been our "support" troops. RSLMF troops retrained by EO, however, are good soldiers.

Earlier intelligence reports gathered by the bush-hunter detachment, which operated clandestinely in the region for government forces, had warned us that a unit had occupied the town. Their strength was put at about 60, armed with rifles and rocket launchers.

To make up for their lack of heavy weapons, the rebels dug big holes in the road and covered them with bam-

other 200 yards. It was a comforting, though noisy, trundling mass that often enveloped us in exhaust fumes. The only firing now came from our troops and the hunter detachment, following behind and mopping up.

More kills were coming through on the radio, but at the end of it there was a body count of only three. Radio intercepts later spoke of about a



dozen more having been snuffed by the choppers. That made it about a quarter of the insurgent force.

### Ploys 'R' Us

As it had been evacuated, we encountered no problems taking the enemy camp on the top of the hill. It had been cleverly positioned. The camp lay at the end of a long bush track through heavy undergrowth. Any approach had to be made single file. There were four more ambush positions along the way, all abandoned. In their haste to depart the rebels had left their clothes, food and equipment. For all we knew they could have been lying in the thick bush within a yard or two of us watching.

been evacuated. Clearly, they had been prepared for a tactical retreat and had left us with only bedding and clothes. Whoever had built the base obviously had good experience in such matters. Vietnamese? Nicaraguan? Libyan? There were no clues.

The command post was in the center of the camp and the toilets situated well away from the living areas toward the rear. These were holes in the ground across which logs had been dug into position. It was kept spotless by those who used it — very definitely not a West African trait.

When we pulled out two hours later we left behind about a hundred members of the hunter detachment to hold the place. When I got back to

quarter of the world's titanium reserves. The country's bauxite mines had also been overrun.

"When we first got there, we were greeted with a ticker-tape parade through the center of Freetown. The whole town turned out to cheer 'the South Africans liberators,' as they called us," said Lieutenant Colonel Carl Alberts, who was then in charge of training on the government's Russian-made Mi-24 (Hind) helicopter gunships.

"Their enthusiasm was overwhelming. I thought at the time: 'Hell! these guys need us bad! They're desperate! There must be some pretty evil mothers across those mountains. Possibly this is all a bad mistake.'" Alberts wasn't the only member of the team to doubt that the move to Sierra Leone was a wise one.

The South Africans arrived in Russian-built Mi-17 helicopters which can carry 40 fully equipped troops and mount machine guns to provide top cover during ground attacks.

Russian pilots were hired to fly Mi-24 gunships which had been bought by the Sierra Leone government to soften up enemy concentrations. Technicians were flown in from the Ukraine to service the helicopters.

After a month's retraining and much planning with the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces (RSLMF), EO went into action. What was expected to take two months was accomplished in nine days. The RUF was driven out of its bases near the capital.

"It wasn't easy. The rainy season had just started," said Col. Brown. "So we didn't quite have the mobility we sought. We had to keep our BMPs out of the bush or they would have quickly bogged down."

"The target that government forces were aiming at was a big rebel base at Ma Sherwe not far from Waterloo Barracks where we do much of our training today." There were about 300 RUF rebels in a well-fortified mountainside position about 500



The hunter detachment was a valuable adjunct to bush operations; well-disciplined and enthusiastic, they had been brutalized by rebels before EO arrived.

Their cleverest ploy to hinder foot assaults was two bamboo poles that straddled a fast-flowing stream. We had to cross this obstacle one-by-one, balancing precariously with rifle in one hand while holding onto a guide rope with the other. They could have hit us there, but there was nobody waiting. The camp itself was a textbook model in layout, cleanliness and defense.

Again, it could only be reached along one track of about 800 yards. Once there, it was obvious that it was a major rebel control point for the region. Though some of the tin structures had been destroyed by the mortar barrage we prepped the target with, just about everything of value had

Freetown the following day, I was told that they had been driven out by the rebels 18 hours later. The hunters' losses had been about seven, though some might have escaped into the jungle.

By the time EO had come to Sierra Leone, thousands of expatriates had fled. The Lebanese community that handles almost all the commercial activity in the country had dwindled to 8,000 from the usual 35,000. Even blue-water shipping had stopped calling at the capital of Freetown.

The rebels controlled not only the country's diamond fields in the Kono region to the east, but also the British-owned rutile mines, which hold a



yards square. The West Africans with EO support went on the offensive, which was probably the last thing the rebels expected. It had never happened here before; in the east, yes, but not at the coast.

"After two days of fairly heavy fighting, there were about 50 rebels dead. One of our men was wounded," Brown recounted.

"It was really the first big battle of the war in which the government had achieved any real results. They were mightily pleased," said Brown. After that the rebels split, some of them heading for bases in the interior. At this writing, Foday Sankoh maintains about 20 operational units throughout the country.

"Those that remained we tracked after dark with night vision equipment. We would see their concentrations and the Rusksies would go in with the 24s and spray them with their Gatlings." The Mi-24 in Sierra Leone is fitted with four-barrelled Gatling guns as well as automatic grenade launchers, which provide awesome firepower. "Once that had been done the army would leapfrog ahead using heliborne infantry, very much as we did in the old days in the Angolan war," said the former SADF colonel.

According to Brown, many of the tactics that EO was teaching RSLMF soldiers were, as far as they were concerned, quite different to anything seen in West Africa in the past. "But what we showed them produced results. They liked that, and more important, they learned quickly."

The next phase of the military operation involved freeing the diamond fields in the east from rebel control. Earlier intelligence reports had indicated that one of the reasons why the Liberians had backed Foday in the first place was to

supplement their own coffers with diamonds.

### Winning Hearts And Mines

Since the war started, Kuido, the main diamond town, had been captured twice by the RUF; once in 1992 shortly after war started (it was retaken nine months later with the help of Guinean troops) and again in April this year. The loss was a serious one for the government; a major proportion of its revenues come from the precious stones mined in the Kono region.

A month after the Battle of Freetown, the South Africans set out once more with a large number of Sierra Leonian soldiers, now trained for serious military action. It was a two-phased operation. The Sierra Leonian top brass had budgeted 10 days for its completion: It was accomplished in two. The strike force was augmented by two BMP-2s, the APCs taking up position at the front and rear of



These Sierra Leone Air Wing Mi-24 Hinds at Lungi airport were out of the running, due to a lack of spares, but it was not the fault of Russian/Ukrainian technicians (inset) who took this Mi-17 wreck and made it fly again.

the convoy which comprised about 20 vehicles.

Colonel Brown explained EO training concepts: "We work within a set of parameters that are quite novel to West African conditions. In the past the RUF would choose a specific kind of site for an ambush — a cutting in

the road or a hill overlooking the route where we would have been confined if we were caught short. But the rebels would make the mistake of 'broadcasting' their intentions," he said.

"Consequently, whenever we approached a position where an ambush could happen, we would stop the vehicles and leave the engines running. Then the Sierra Leonians, backed by our men, would go forward on foot and surprise the enemy where they were lying in wait for us. The shock was often so great that they could not shoot back." The RUF suffered huge losses, the colonel maintained.

"Other times government forces would mortar likely emplacements and later, when we moved forward, we could see where they had positioned themselves."

Until EO arrived, said Brown, the war in Sierra Leone had a pattern: "The two sides would encounter each other in the bush or along a road, fire a volley or two and then withdraw. There was never a question of following up an attack. And that's one of the things we quickly taught them."

The man who runs EO affairs in

eastern Sierra Leone and works closely with his RSLMF counterparts is Col. Roelf, a gruff, almost patriarchal figure that could easily be mistaken for a Boer veteran. His headquarters building itself had one of its walls blown

**Continued on page 74**



# Amateurs & Assassins

## Hard-Hitting Hearings Expose Ruby Ridge Bungling And Murders

by James L. Pate



LON TOMOHISA HORIUCHI

F-2

"Hooch" came to the zoo a born goat. Always hiving and striving to stay one step ahead of the Dean. Being a goat didn't leave him much time for OPE, but then again OPE "Hooch" didn't need the time.

*Outdoor Sportsman's Club 4, 3, 2, 1; Chinese Club 4, 3; SCUBA Club 3, 2, 1; Ring and Crest Committee 4, 3, 2, 1.*

LIEUTENANT



James L. Pate

Lon "Hooch" Horiuchi, West Point class of '76 and the FBI sniper who killed Vicki Weaver, is at the top of a list of agents whom many feel should be held accountable. Horiuchi has not only gone unpunished, he has been praised.

Even in a government in which reckless spending is notorious, the two sawed-off 12-gauge shotguns displayed at a U.S. Senate hearing on the Randy Weaver tragedy may be the most costly guns ever foisted on taxpayers. All told, federal police and judicial officials paid upward of \$3 million each for the pair of otherwise ordinary shotguns: a single-shot and a Remington Model 870 pump.

The \$6 million price tag includes a \$2 million-plus surveillance-and-arrest operation, \$5,000 to an informant who, a jury decided, entrapped Weaver, and \$3.1 million ultimately paid the Weavers for the wrongful deaths of two family members. It does not include the cost of a 64-day criminal trial — one in which Weaver was acquitted of all except two minor charges — and 10 days of hearings in the U.S. Senate. Nor does it take into account the additional cost of something that no amount of money can replace: human life.

Those two shotguns were paid for with three lives: an innocent mother, Vicki Weaver, assassinated with babe in arms by a Federal Bureau of Investigation sniper named Lon T. Horiuchi; her terrified teen-age son, Sammy, shot in the back by a deputy federal marshal; and the life of another deputy marshal, William F. Degan, himself a decorated Marine Corps combat veteran, devoted husband and father of two, shot in self-defense by Weaver family friend Kevin Harris (see "Standoff In Idaho," *SOF*, March '93).

Add to that staggering toll the heavily damaged reputations of three federal law enforcement agencies: the FBI, the U.S. Marshal Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. It was the ATF which, in 1989, initiated the case. Weaver was given the wrong court date and in





March 1991, the marshals were ordered to arrest him for failure to appear. When Sammy Weaver and Degan were killed 17 months later, the FBI took over, precipitating Vicki's death the next day, on

the first meaningful official inquiry into the matter. U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, rebuked the ATF and other federal lawmen because three people were shot to death, "millions and millions of dol-

not allow myself to be tempted in a weak moment when my family needed money. I would not let my fears, and the fears of my family, keep me from surrendering.

"I am not without fault in this matter," he said. "... But my wrongs did not cause federal agents to commit crimes. Nothing I did caused federal agents to violate the Constitution of the United States... Agents of the FBI have been part of the cover-up of what really happened... I have faced my accusers at trial. I faced the FBI, the Marshals Service, the United States attorney, a federal judge and a jury of my peers. I faced the death penalty. I have been accountable for my actions. I now face you, senators, to ask that those responsible for the killings of my wife and my son be brought to account for their actions."

#### From Butter-Bar To Bad Guy

At the top of that list of agents whom many feel should be called to account is Lon Horiuchi, the FBI sniper who killed Vicki Weaver. While other agents have been suspended and are under criminal investigation for Mrs. Weaver's death, Horiuchi has not only gone unpunished, he has been praised. "I am very, very proud ... particularly [of] the HRT snipers," FBI Director Louis Freeh said in a Janu-

ary press conference, referring to the actions of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team at Ruby Ridge.

Proud or not, Horiuchi's shooting of Vicki Weaver is under investigation by Idaho state prosecutor Randall Day, who was still considering a homicide charge against the agent as this went to press. Horiuchi, called to testify before senators behind closed doors pleaded his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself and refused to answer questions.

At Weaver's criminal trial, Horiuchi testified he was trying to hit Kevin Harris and could not see Vicki Weaver standing behind the open kitchen door. He confirmed that he shot without warning, that he



James L. Pote

"A cadet will not lie..." At Weaver's criminal trial, Horiuchi (at West Point, bottom row, far right) testified he tried to hit Kevin Harris and could not see Vicki Weaver standing behind the open kitchen door. He confirmed that he shot without warning, that he aimed to kill Harris and that he believed he was completely justified in doing so. When defense attorney Gerry Spence asked Horiuchi if he enjoyed his job, the sniper said yes.

22 August 1992.

One can only estimate the incalculable cost to repair the confidence of U.S. citizens in their federal government. The outrageously arrogant abuse of power on Ruby Ridge, 35 miles south of Idaho's Canadian border, made it synonymous with the wanton slaughter of such atrocities as Kent State, My Lai and, nine months after the Idaho killings, the Branch Davidian massacre in Waco, Texas.

Finally, you get to the bottom line in the Randy Weaver case: "an American tragedy [that] reverberated around the country," said U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, the Pennsylvania Republican and presidential hopeful who headed

lars [were] spent, careers are being ruined ... and all this comes from selling two sawed-off shotguns."

The Ruby Ridge hearings, the first three days completed as of this writing, were as well-organized and hard-hitting as the House of Representatives' hearings on Waco were unfocused and fumbling. The prosecutorial experience of several senators was evident in the logical sequence, penetrating nature and coherent follow-up questions.

It marked Weaver's first public statements about the ordeal. His testimony was contrite, at times tearful and utterly sincere. "If I had it to do over again ... I would make different choices," Weaver testified. "I would



aimed to kill Harris and that he believed he was completely justified in doing so. When defense attorney Gerry Spence asked Horiuchi if he enjoyed his job, the sniper said yes. But Vicki Weaver's shooting was an accident, the witness said.

The most dramatic evidence of the senate hearing, however, contradicts Horiuchi's claim that he could not see Vicki Weaver. A drawing the sniper made a few days after the shooting — a drawing later withheld from defense attorneys — shows two heads in the window. Weaver said he was told by Bo Gritz, who negotiated an end to the 11-day standoff, that Horiuchi's boss, Dick Rogers, told Gritz that Vicki "had to be eliminated from the equation" because of a fear she would kill her children and commit suicide rather than surrender.

Most damning, though, was the kitchen door itself. Directed by Specter, Weaver lined up the bullet hole in the blood-speckled gingham curtain with the bullet hole in the door's large window glass. The curtain had been open. Looking through his 10-power scope, Horiuchi *must* have seen Vicki Weaver.

But it was the two shotguns which most poignantly symbolized the senseless and fatal folly of the Randy Weaver case. At the end of the third day of hearings by Specter's Senate Judiciary subcommittee, ATF director John Magaw, dressed in a trademark baggy pinstripe suit, displayed the two shotguns like prized trophies. Apparently relishing the media attention, he obligingly held the Remington in an awkward ready position and grinned stupidly as TV film crews and still photographers zoomed in for close-ups. He still didn't get it.

It was a signal moment in a case which began six years earlier, when Weaver, a former

Green Beret who married his childhood sweetheart and had four children, sold the weapons to ATF snitch Kenneth Fadeley. (Contrary to an erroneous statement in *SOF's* first story about Weaver, he *did* pass his Army Special Forces qualification course.) Led by Specter, a former federal prosecutor, the senators grilled Magaw with intense and sometimes hostile questions, accusing the ATF of targeting Weaver, a man with no criminal record, simply because of his controversial and unpopular beliefs about politics and religion.

The ATF, the senators insisted, preyed on Weaver's desperation to feed his family to entrap him in the gun sale. Then its agents concocted a false criminal history that included unspecified felony convictions and allegations of marijuana growing,

bank robberies and murder, grossly exaggerating the danger posed by Weaver to convince U.S. Attorney Maurice Ellsworth to prosecute a piddling gun bust.

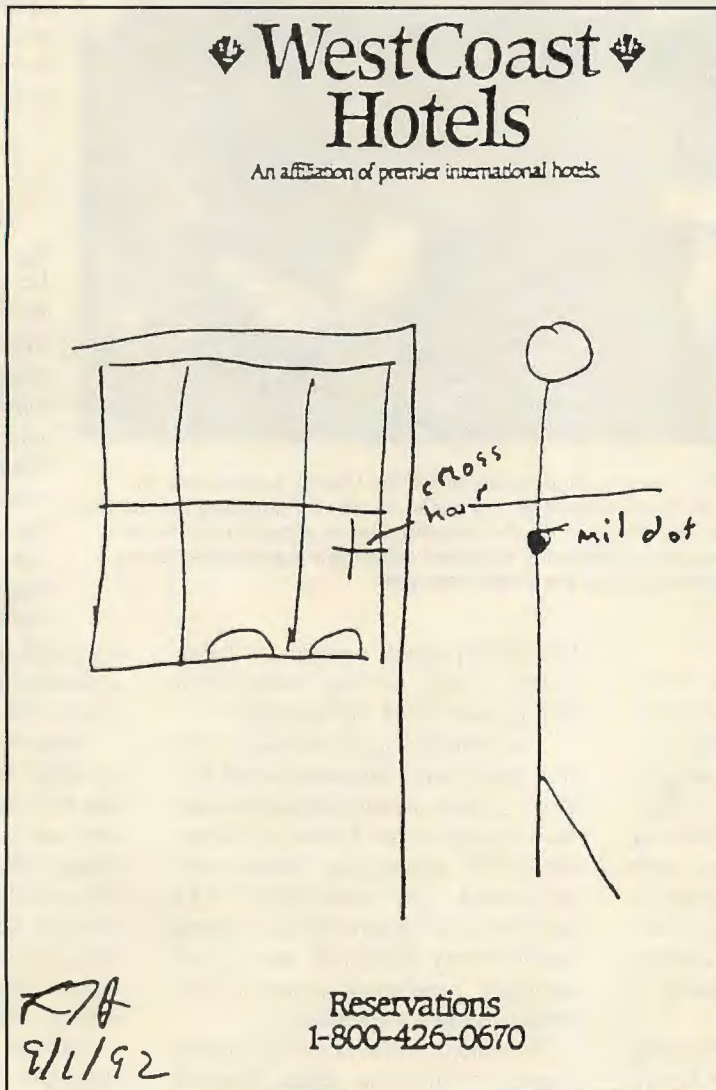
Yet, in the face of highly damning documentary evidence proving the ATF lied to bolster a weak case, Magaw remained adamant that his agents had done no wrong. Magaw's gratuitous grip-and-grin session, a fatuous public relations ploy that cheapened the bloody price paid for those two weapons, demonstrated his utter lack of appreciation for the level of public outrage evoked by the case. If his agents made any mistake, Magaw vowed, it was "underestimating the threat they face[d]."

Magaw's statement demonstrates the absolute refusal, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary,

of all three federal law enforcement agencies involved to admit *any* wrongdoing. A Treasury Department review of the ATF's role was labeled by one senator as a whitewash. A Justice Department investigation also concealed allegedly criminal acts by federal agents, and itself became the target of yet another probe into what one Senate panel member dubbed "the cover-up of a cover-up." This latest scrutiny led to the suspension of four top-level FBI agents, including assistant director Larry Potts. Criminal allegations include perjury, obstruction of justice and unconstitutional rules of engagement that stated FBI snipers "could and should" shoot on sight, without warning, any adult at the Weaver residence.

### Tangible Truth vs. FBI Fiction

Magaw's contention that his agents perhaps underestimated the threat presented by Weaver also vividly illustrated the vast difference between federal hype and



Sniper Horiuchi claimed he was leading Kevin Harris running toward the door and could not see Vicki Weaver. Yet a drawing he made a few days after the shooting clearly shows Harris and two heads in the window.

James L. Pate





AP/Wide World

**Most damning evidence of the Ruby Ridge hearing was the kitchen door itself. Weaver lined up the bullet hole in the blood-speckled curtain with the bullet hole in the door's large window glass proving the curtain had been open. Looking through his scope, Horiuchi must have seen Vicki Weaver.**

real fact; the gap between the sinister portrait of a deadly terrorist painted by federal agents, and the truth about Randy Weaver.

For instance, in Senate testimony that sounded suspiciously coached, informant Fadeley referred at one point to a Ruger 10/22 as "a semiautomatic assault weapon." The small-bore rifle also happens to be the official target shooting gun of the Boy Scouts of America — which the feds might describe as a "survivalist paramilitary youth militia."

The FBI described the Weavers' home atop a wooded ridge in northern Idaho's rugged Selkirk Mountains as a fearsome "fortress-like ... mountain stronghold." In Senate testimony by federal agents, they continued to refer to the small residence as "a compound," one which was alleged to be honeycombed with bunkers, tunnels and booby traps.

In reality, the Weavers lived in a modest, unpainted cabin built of plywood, hand-cut lumber and castoff mill ends, all precariously perched on red fir stilts atop an exposed, rocky precipice on which tilling the scant soil for food was an arduous

chore — never mind digging tunnels and bunkers. Instead of booby traps, it was a place in which, as Vicki Weaver wrote to a friend only three weeks before her death, "we have lots of peace and laughter," one where the Weavers' kids and dogs could play and hunt in the woods. "Why would I booby trap the woods my kids played in?" Weaver asked senators.

On the fifth floor of the FBI's headquarters in Washington, D.C., in the bureau's Strategic Information and Operations Center — a soundproofed, bunker-like version of the Pentagon's



AP/Wide World

**Seated with attorney Gerry Spence (right), Weaver testified: "I am not without fault in this matter... But my wrongs did not cause federal agents to commit crimes... I have faced my accusers at trial... I faced the death penalty. I have been accountable for my actions. I now face you, senators, to ask that those responsible for the killings of my wife and my son be brought to account for their actions."**

war room — Weaver himself was considered one of the most dangerous fanatics ever encountered by its anti-terrorism unit, the HRT. Weaver was compared to Robert Matthews, a white supremacist whose violent gang, The Order, robbed banks and armored cars, counterfeited money and targeted Jews and others for assassination. After a two-day shoot-out with FBI agents, Matthews died when the surrounded house he was in was gassed, caught fire and burned to the ground. Sound familiar?

Accordingly, the Weaver home was surrounded by 10 of the FBI's HRT snipers, and later, hundreds of agents and National Guard troops armed with machine guns. Also brought to bear on the Weaver family were armored personnel carriers, helicopters and a "negotiation" robot whose main feature was a 12-gauge, double-barreled shotgun aimed at whomever picked up the telephone handset.

The Weavers had a total of 14 guns, including two BB guns, pistols, shotguns and rifles, the most fearsome being a .30-06 hunting rifle. At no time during the 11-day stand-off in which his wife and son were killed did Weaver even point a firearm at anyone, much less shoot at anybody.

In reality, "if anyone had come up to me face-to-face, with some common sense, it could have been resolved very peacefully," Weaver testified. "If the local sheriff had come up ... I'd have gone down with him..."

At no time did a law enforcement officer with a badge come up and try to arrest me... Only Bo Gritz made a decent attempt for us to give up. Before that, no one else did."

Contrary to the FBI's portrayal of Weaver as a crazed, bloodthirsty terrorist bent on dying in a shoot-out with the feds, Weaver was a poor man with fringe political views struggling to feed his family by living off the land. Contrary to the ATF's claim that Randy Weaver was a major illegal arms supplier, he didn't even have a tool bench to





The truth may be uncovered in the Randy Weaver case, "an American tragedy [that] reverberated around the country," said U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, the Pennsylvania Republican and presidential hopeful who headed the first meaningful official inquiry into the matter.

work on. "You're talking about a guy out under a shade tree with a hack-saw," said U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, a Tennessee Republican and former Watergate prosecutor, referring to Weaver's description of how he sawed off the barrels of the two guns he sold to the snitch.

### Based On Missing Tapes

On 5 September, the day before the Senate hearings began, an *SOF* confidential source close to ATF predicted the bureau would be unable to produce any taped evidence of Weaver's first conversation about the shotguns. "This often happens," the source said. "This is the time when the suspect might make exculpatory statements, say that what is being proposed is illegal. Or the informant will say something leading that could cause them prob-

lems in court. So the case agent will say the tape recorder malfunctioned, or give some reason they can't produce a taped transcript of this key conversation."

The prediction was accurate. The informant, Fadeley, a burly man who sat concealed behind a translucent glass screen, his voice electronically altered, testified he was not wearing a recording device the day the subject of sawed-off shotguns first arose because Weaver raised the topic unexpectedly. Fadeley testified his only initial interest in Weaver was to use him to secure an introduction with a Weaver acquaintance in Montana who'd been targeted by ATF.

In contrast, Weaver said he and the Montana man weren't on friendly terms.

Fadeley, who used the alias Gus Magisano, befriended Weaver over a three-year period, and prodded him repeatedly to break the law, Weaver said. "He claimed he was a big time gun runner. He tried to get me to commit illegal acts, specifically alter guns. I shied away from him. He finally caught me at a weak moment. It was the biggest mistake of my life."

Transcriptions of tape recordings

the ATF did provide tended to support Weaver's story, several senators noted. Fadeley claimed Weaver made an unsolicited offer to provide a steady supply of untraceable, sawed-off shotguns, at least five per week. But in one tape transcript, when Fadeley asked Weaver to provide five illegal shotguns weekly, Weaver's reply was a non-committal, "Well...", after which Fadeley changed the subject. The transcript also indicated that Fadeley told Weaver precisely where to saw off the barrels — 5 inches short of the legal minimum, not the quarter-inch previously reported.

At one point, Weaver states emphatically on the tape, "You know, you approached me and offered me a deal about sawed-off shotguns." In the tape, Fadeley did not deny Weaver's statement.

Fadeley's Senate testimony also offered a glimpse into how heavily the Aryan Nations, Ku Klux Klan and similar groups in the Pacific Northwest have been penetrated by federal informants. At times, it seemed, these groups wouldn't have enough members to meet were it not for the snitches on the federal payroll.

At one meeting described by Fadeley, only three people attended; two were federal informants. He also recounted an incident in which "the informant for one law enforcement agency tried to 'work' [implicate in

criminal activity] someone who turned out to be an informant for another law enforcement agency ... Probably a variety of agencies" had informants at Aryan Nation meetings, where he first met Weaver in 1986, Fadeley testified. He said snitches were so numerous that they were in competition with each other. Indeed, one FBI informant Fadeley identified as Rico Valentino — a personal bodyguard to Aryan Nations



Andrew Vita, assistant director of enforcement, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, left, and Herb Byerly, ATF case agent on the Ruby Ridge case, are sworn in prior to testifying on Capitol Hill, 7 September 1995 before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.



leader Richard Butler — later exposed Fadeley's undercover role.

Fadeley was ultimately paid \$5,000, plus several hundred dollars in expenses, by ATF for the bureau's case against Weaver. At the criminal trial in Boise, Idaho, in 1993, Fadeley testified that his understanding of his agreement with ATF was that he would only get paid if Weaver was convicted on the gun charges (Weaver was acquitted). Specter said such an arrangement might provide incentive for an informant to give false testimony. Asked to explain his trial testimony, Fadeley said he "misspoke." Fadeley also whined to the Senate panel that, during Weaver's trial, "I felt like I'd lost all my rights... I was belittled. I was called a liar 31 times."

### Lies, Damn Lies And The ATF

Kinda breaks your heart, don't it? If not Fadeley, then, *someone* on the government's side was lying. A letter from the ATF to U.S. Attorney Ellsworth, urging Weaver's federal prosecution for the two sawed-off shotguns, stated that Weaver "has been convicted of activities and has been involved in a number of Aryan Nations ... activities." In fact, Weaver's only convictions had been more than 20 years earlier, for minor traffic offenses in his native Iowa. In fact, Weaver, a white separatist and adherent of the Christian Identity movement, attended only three Aryan Nations meetings in four years, but never joined.

According to a U.S. Marshal Service letter, ATF Special Agent Herb Byerly, the case officer, told federal court officials that Weaver "is a suspect in several ... bank robberies. An alleged accomplice ... was arrested in Iowa and implicated ... Weaver... The accomplice has since escaped [and] could be on the Weaver property." In fact, Weaver was never a

suspect in any robbery. There was no accomplice, either in an Iowa jail, or on Weaver's property.

The Marshal Service letter also alleged "the possibility of a marijuana grow area with supporting irrigation system near the Weaver residence." Such a possibility "could not be ruled out by the military analysts who provided the detailed briefing." As in the ATF's investigation of Branch Davidian leader David Koresh in Waco, the gun bureau lied about the existence of drugs to obtain



With two regular shotguns on the table in front of him, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Director John Magaw holds a sawed-off shotgun while testifying on Capitol Hill Friday 8 September 1995 before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee. The two shotguns most poignantly symbolize the senseless and fatal folly of the Randy Weaver case.

military assistance.

Asked whether he passed on such false claims, a visibly nervous Byerly stammered and stuttered under the bright TV lights, pausing several times to swab his shiny brow. At one point, he testified he didn't remember making such allegations, then finally conceded it was "a possibility." He testified that the U.S. Attorney's staff was made aware that the allegations were false, but then could not remember telling them so himself, or offer any explanation as to how the staff might have known. Asked to

explain why such lies in the letter would be attributed to him, he lamely offered that several lines were "a typographical error." Several spectators in the back of the hearing room guffawed loudly.

If the reader somehow gets the impression that the federal government has not been telling the whole truth about its conduct during the Randy Weaver investigation, you are not alone. The Weaver jury decided the same thing. One juror, Dorothy Hoffman, told *The Washington Post* that "the farther we got along in the case, the more I thought, 'This is ridiculous. The wrong people are on trial.'"

Yet in his Senate testimony, ATF Special Agent Byerly insisted there was no finding by the jury that Randy Weaver had been entrapped on the gun charges. "The jury did not find Weaver 'not guilty' on the gun charges," Byerly stubbornly argued, displaying curious logic. "They merely acquitted him."

"This is a dark moment for federal law enforcement," said Sen. Charles E. Grassley, an Iowa Republican. "Too many here in Washington do not understand the impact that this has had on the country... Public trust in federal law

enforcement has been fractured." He condemned "the swashbucklers [who] are in control" and "the militarization of the FBI... [with] shoot-to-kill rules... When they do negotiate, they violate every rule in the training manual... There is no room for this culture in law enforcement. It needs to be stopped and stopped now."

No one is a bigger champion of that sentiment than Randy Weaver. He apologized repeatedly for his role in the tragedy, said it had

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# WILSON'S CQB .45

## Hot Rod Handgun for Close Encounters of the Real Kind



Wilson's Special Ops CQB pistol has all of the extra features desired by armed professionals, many of whom still prefer the venerable single-action Government Model .45.

### It all started long ago.

Brigadier General William Crozier was appointed Chief of Army Ordnance by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. In 1904, he created a board of two officers, Colonel John T. Thompson (Ordnance) and Col. Louis A. LaGarde (Medical Corps) to resolve the small-and-fast vs. large-and-slow handgun caliber controversy. LaGarde concluded that, "The board was of the opinion that a bullet which will have the shock effect and stopping power at short ranges necessary for a military pistol or revolver should have

a caliber not less than .45."

Ninety years later, after a decade of large-magazine-capacity, double-action spray-and-pray 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W ray guns, Sarah Brady and Bill Clinton have unwittingly brought us full circle. The ban on magazines of greater than 10-round capacity have forced the firearms industry and its consumers to take a closer look at both really compact 9mm and .40 S&W pistols, such as the new Glock Models G26 (9mm Parabellum) and G27 (.40 S&W), and service-size sidearms chambered for the venerable, battle-

proven .45 ACP cartridge.

For some of us, this later focus is nothing new. Outside of the military, the popularity of the .45 ACP round and the principal single-action semi-automatic pistol chambered for it has always resided within a small, but vociferous group of cognoscenti composed of competition shooters, self-defense enthusiasts, professional pistoleros and a smattering of law enforcement personnel with greater than average knowledge of firearms.

The first full-fledged U.S. tests consisting of seven semiautomatic pistols and two revolvers in this cali-



ber took place in 1907. Colt, Savage and Luger caliber .45 pistols made it through the first round of tests. DWM subsequently withdrew the Luger from further U.S. trials.

Field tests conducted in 1908 were less satisfactory for the Colt entries. They snapped sears and went full-auto, broke firing pins and jammed constantly. The Savage design fared even worse. After a great deal of revision and improvement of both the Colt and Savage pistols, the final trials commenced 15 March 1911. The Colt Model of 1911, Special Army serial number 5, demolished the Savage entry. While the Savage had only 37 stoppages in 6,000 rounds, the Colt had none. U.S. Army Ordnance officially adopted the Colt pistol on 28 March 1911.

Development of the .45 automatic pistol cartridge generally paralleled that of the handgun itself. The round that was to become the official cartridge used during the first trials was developed at Frankford Arsenal and was unofficially referred to as the Model 1906 Cal. 45 Automatic Pistol Ball Cartridge. It had a brass rimless case with a bullet-seating cannellure, and was loaded with a 230-grain, cupronickel-jacketed bullet traveling at 800 fps.

In 1907 the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. received a government order to manufacture 100,000 rounds of caliber .45 automatic pistol ammunition with a shorter case than the Frankford Arsenal cartridge. In 1909, UMC was given an order for 200,000 rounds for their shorter cartridge, with an added case cannellure and a knurled cannellure on the bullet. This round, with the primer pocket made slightly smaller (to avoid confusion with the .30 caliber rifle primer) and the bullet cannellure deleted, was adopted in the summer of 1911 and first manufactured that year at Frankford Arsenal.

The original pistol design was modified by the U.S. government in 1921. These alterations included an arched and checkered mainspring housing, shorter trigger, recess cuts on both sides of the frame to accommodate the trigger finger, a longer horn on the safety and a slightly shortened hammer spur. After this the designation was changed to M1911A1.

During the more than eight decades of its existence, the Colt Government Model .45 has been copied

innumerable times. Foreign copies have included the Spanish Star, new Spanish Llama MAX-1, Norwegian Model 1914, Argentine Model 1927 and Ballester-Molina and the now banned Chinese version. Domestic clones have carried the logos of AMT, Arminex, Auto-Ordnance, Crown City Arms, New Detonics, Randall, Safari Arms, Para-Ordnance, L.A.R. Grizzly, Kimber, Mitchell and Springfield Armory (actually made at the Fabrica de Itajuba, Brazil). There have been others, most now long deceased.

### A Professional's Touch

In addition, a countless number of pistolsmiths have, for many decades, assembled custom 1911-type pistols for competition shooters and armed professionals. Many still carry the Government Model .45, or one of its many derivatives, into the deepest shadows of danger. Professionals whose lives may well depend upon this tool of the trade will spare no expense to obtain the ultimate degree of reliability and performance. Is this obsession for perfection any different from that of the profes-

sional race car driver?

As a longtime practical pistol match competitor, pistolsmith Bill Wilson knows what it takes to win. A significant number of championships have been won with his products. Wilson's Gun Shop Inc. (Dept. SOF, Route 3, P.O. Box 578, Berryville, AR 72616-0578; phone: 800-955-4856; catalog \$5) is the world's largest manufacturer of custom, combat-type, M1911 accessories and components. The vast majority of custom pistolsmiths throughout the United States use Wilson parts to one extent or another. Wilson's Gun Shop also builds complete handguns.

*Soldier Of Fortune* was recently sent one of Wilson's full-size Government Model .45 pistols for test and evaluation. Called the Special Ops CQB (Close Quarters Battle), handguns in this exact configuration are provided to the U.S. Army's most elite special operations unit. Only 100 of these pistols are being built as a "limited edition" with special serial numbers from DF00001 through DF00100. *SOF's* test specimen was serial number DF00013. This is

## They All Fall To Hardball

Five types of ammunition were tested with the Special Ops CQB: Cor-Bon (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 10126, Detroit, MI 48210; phone: 800-626-7266) 185-grain JHP; Eldorado (PMC/Eldorado Cartridge Corp., Dept. SOF, 12801 U.S. Highway 95 S., Boulder City, NV 89005; phone: 702-294-0025) Starfire 230-grain JHP; and Black Hills (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 800-568-6625) 230-grain FMJ, 200-grain JHP and 230-grain RNL. Instrumentation for the velocity tests consisted of the excellent PACT (Practical Applied Computer Technologies Inc., P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462) MkIV Championship Timer with its built-in chronograph mode, together with PACT Mk5 Professional Skyscreens. All shots were fired at a distance of 10 feet from the start screen, and the ambient temperature at the time of *SOF's* test and evaluation was 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

The slowest load was the Black Hills 230-grain FMJ at an average velocity of 815 fps — very close to military ball. Black Hills' Round Nose Lead loading traveled downrange at about 855 fps, as did the Eldorado Starfire 230-grain JHP. Black Hills .45 ACP ammunition featuring a 200-grain JHP averaged 1,010 fps. The hottest load we tested was the Cor-Bon 185-grain JHP which moved out with an average velocity of 1,230 fps.

Full Metal Jacket .45 ACP ball will usually penetrate up to 26 inches of soft tissue. This borders on over-penetration. On the other hand, lightweight bullets traveling at extremely high velocities will most often over-expand and under-penetrate in living tissue. We're looking for 12 to 18 inches of penetration, with the biggest possible wound track. These requirements are best met by .45 caliber 230-grain moving at velocities under 900 fps. Examples would be Black Hills ammunition loaded with the Hornady 230-grain JHP XTP bullet, Remington's Golden Saber and several Winchester loads with bullets of this type and weight.

— P.G.K.



## Straight From The Horse's Hide

While military users will probably just slap the Special Ops CQB pistol into a Bianchi UM841 nylon flap holster hung on their web pistol belt, those of us who wish to carry this large service sidearm in deep concealment need a holster with more finesse. For that, a custom holster maker is required. Ken L. Null (K.L. Null Holsters, Dept. SOF, 161 School St. N.W., Hill City Station, Resaca, GA 30735; phone: 706-625-5643, fax: 706-625-9392; catalog \$3) specializes in concealment rigs of the highest possible quality for government operatives and undercover federal and local law enforcement personnel. The list of employers of those he has provided holsters for is very impressive and includes the CIA, FBI, Secret Service, U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Intelligence, U.S. Coast Guard, Interpol, Israeli Mossad, West German police and law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Latin America.

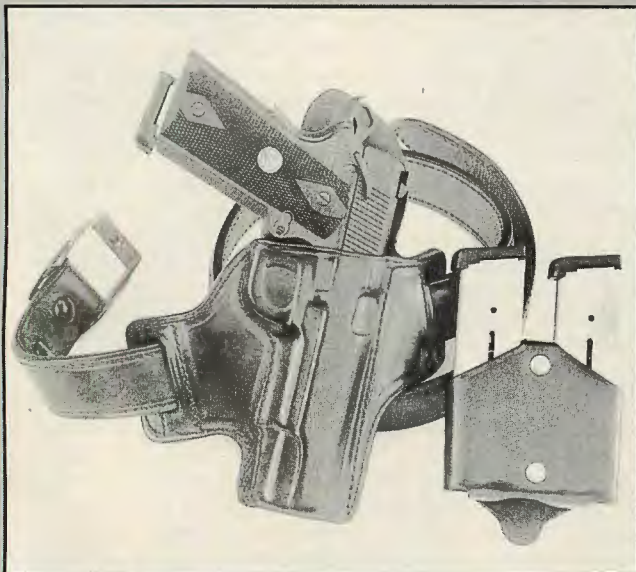
Ken uses the most impeccable of materials. Although he started with vegetable-tanned (chrome tanning leaves a salt residue in the leather and is almost never used by quality holster makers) steerhide, he has for many years used vegetable-tanned horsehide exclusively. While more expensive than steerhide, horsehide is much denser and the same strength can be obtained with thinner leather. Although harder to work, horsehide doesn't lose its hand-molded configuration as easily as steerhide. Ken emphatically states that horsehide will maintain its retention qualities by a ratio of six to one over steerhide. For presentation work, Null also makes holsters with a horsehide inner lining and a shark skin exterior.

Horsehide can be molded more precisely than any other type of leather. In addition, it becomes glossy wherever it's in contact with the pistol's metal surfaces after about 50 drawstrokes and will not hold onto abrasive material. Null uses a leather worker's "pear shader" set into a handle and various other wood and steel tools, some self-designed, for all his rubbing and molding. He uses no aluminum-cast replicas of the handguns he fits his holsters to, only actual specimens to maintain the precision required for maximum retention.

One of my favorite Null belt holsters is his Model GSS Gibraltar Speed Scabbard and it is the one I chose for the Special Ops CQB. This strong-side holster with a rearward muzzle rake rides so high on the belt that the magazine catch/release button clears leather. Another outstanding feature is the absence of leather at the root of the trigger guard which permits the shooter to obtain a proper grip on the piece while it's still holstered and at the very start of the presentation without ever needing to reposition the grip during the drawstroke. "Rock-steady" as its name implies, the Model GSS looks bulkier but rides somewhat lighter than Null's famous Model SSS Super Speed Scabbard. Its non-shifting stability is assured by tab extensions which allow the belt to be fed through the holster loop before the trouser loop. Both the Models GSS and SSS provide greater concealment of large service sidearms than any other belt holsters on the market. The Model GSS is a superb piece of leather work by a master craftsman and ideally suited to the Special Ops CQB.

I also selected Null's Model DCL Double Clip magazine pouch, which holds two single-column magazines, both in the forward position. It offers secure retention (partially a function of the unique use of magnets) with an optimum purchase area on the magazines for enhanced

removal during tactical reloads. Both holster and pouch are hung on Null's Model CBT combat belt which is cut on a contour for either right- or left-hand shooters. Gun belts are an important, but often neglected ingredient in the pistolero's equipment equation. Handmade from laminated, lock-stitched, full-face-lined, dense horsehide, the Model CBT has a stiff, laminated horsehide reinforcing piece that runs from 3 to 9 o'clock on the shooter's body. The thickest part of the belt is where the holster will rest, the thinnest section is on the weak-side where the magazine pouch is normally placed. (Note: Ken collects World War II and older Japanese swords and edged weapons, as well as Tobin Arms Co. double-barrel shotguns, and will trade holsters for them.)



Ken Null's Model GSS Gibraltar Speed Scabbard provides greater concealment of large service sidearms than any other belt holster on the market. His Model DCL Double Clip magazine pouch, holds two single-column magazines, both in the forward position as desired by professional pistoleros.

— P.G.K.

a fighting firearm designed for armed professionals. There's no gingerbread on this pistol. Its salient features are those needed when the Government Model .45 is carried in harm's way. You won't find any squared-off or re-curved, checkered trigger guards, extended slide stop levers or oversize magazine release buttons on the Special Ops CQB pistol.

Overall length of this pistol is 8 5/8 inches, with an overall height of 5 7/8 inches and a width (at the grips) of 1 5/16 inches. The weight, empty, is 39 ounces. Fully loaded with nine rounds it tips the scales at 45 ounces.

This pistol is constructed around an investment cast, mill finished, chrome-moly 4140 steel frame from Caspian Arms. The rear tang of this frame has been pre-cut for a Wilson beavertail grip safety. The magazine-well is also beveled to enhance snag-free magazine changes. The front strap features EDM-cut checkering (20 lpi). The Wilson National Match 70 Series style slide is machined



from 4140 bar stock and then heat-treated to RC 39 for maximum strength and reliability. It has an enlarged ejection port flared at the rear to prevent denting empty cases and improve ejection reliability. The Special Ops CQB pistol's slide-to-frame fit is tightened to enhance accuracy without compromising reliability. The frame, slide and all other components, except the barrel, barrel bushing, trigger, firing pin and recoil and firing pin springs, carry a matte black milspec "Parkerized" (phosphate) finish. In addition, all of the sharp corners on the frame and slide have been rounded ("de-horned") to improve the pistol's concealed-carry potential.

The slide for this limited edition pistol has additional cocking serrations at the front, to assist in "press checking" the pistol in order to visually determine if there is a round in the chamber. Another special feature is the manner in which the slide is marked. The left side is stamped "Wilson Combat." There is a Special Forces shoulder insignia stamped on the slide's right side at the very rear in back of the cocking serrations. Forward of this the slide is marked, "Special Ops CQB." The slide is dovetailed to accept both the front and rear sights. These are low-profile, snag-free, fixed sights with tritium inserts. The single tritium dot on the front sight glows green, while the two dots on the rear sight are yellow. In use, I have found that the eyes instinctively focus on the green front dot with a strong three-dimensional triangulation effect that helps



Among their many attributes, full-size Government Model .45s provide a longer sight radius and, with a steel frame, perceived recoil that is totally inconsequential.

## Method Of Operation

The method of operation as designed by John Moses Browning is well-known to almost all handgun enthusiasts. Locked-breech, short recoil-operated; the barrel and slide are locked together by two ribs on top of the barrel at the chamber end, which engage two recesses in the underside of the slide. Securely locked together during the moment of high chamber pressure, the barrel and slide travel rearward a short distance still firmly mated to each other,

During recoil, the barrel swings backward on its link, which is attached to the frame by the slide stop pin passing through it. As rearward travel continues, the barrel is forced downward and away from the slide. The barrel's rearward travel ceases when it strikes its stop in the frame, while the slide continues backward to complete extraction and ejection of the empty case before rebounding, by means of the recoil spring, to strip and chamber another round from the magazine.

— P.G.K.

funnel the shooter's vision onto the target. The rear sight is retained by an allen head set screw. The sight radius is 6 11/16 inches.

Wilson's Combat Match Grade barrels are known for their high degree of quality and inherent accuracy potential. The barrel is made from a 416 stainless steel forging, which is machined and broached to very close tolerances. These barrels are heat-treated to RC 38-42 and chambered after broaching for perfect concentricity. Wilson .45 ACP barrels feature six-groove rifling with a right hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. The barrel on our Special Ops CQB pistol was throated (polishing and opening up the chamber end of the barrel just above the frame's feed ramp to improve feeding bullets with unconventional configurations). Wilson's match-grade bushing is

made of stainless steel for maximum reliability and wear.

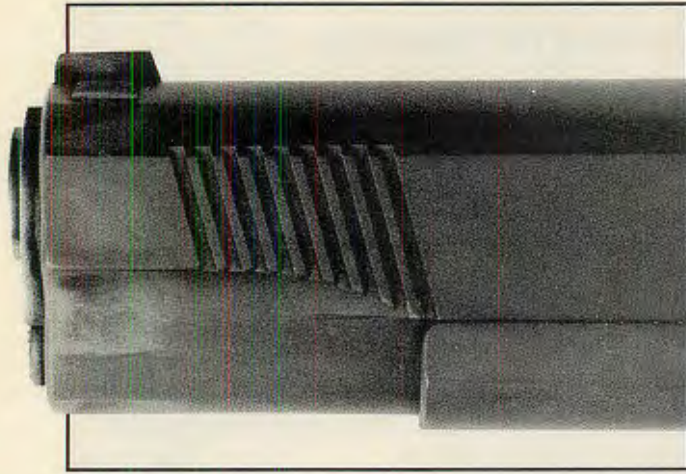
## Built To Win

Wilson's extractors are popular with custom pistolsmiths everywhere, as this is a weak link in the M1911 system and most failures to extract are a consequence of loss of extractor tension. Fully machined from solid bar stock, Wilson's extractors are heat-treated to provide optimum tension and long service life. The extractor on the Special Ops CQB pistol is polished and adjusted by hand for a perfect fit.

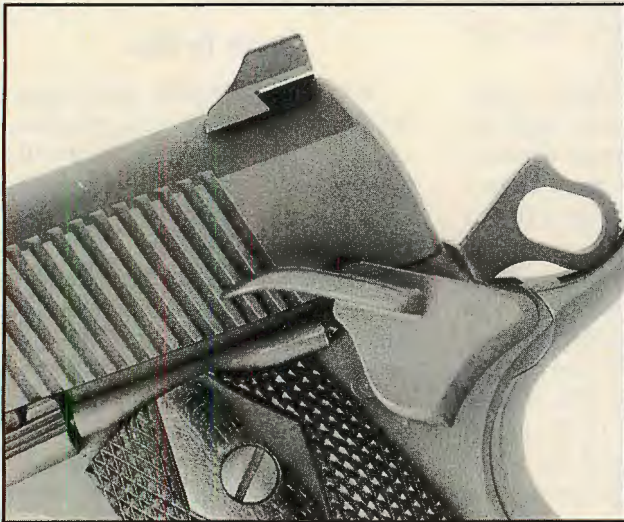
Our Special Ops CQB pistol was also equipped with Wilson's "Extra Power" firing pin spring which reduces the risk of an accidental discharge if the pistol is dropped, without reducing ignition reliability. Wilson recommends that the firing pin spring be replaced every 5,000 rounds. This pistol is also fitted with heavy duty 18.5-pound recoil spring for shooting hard ball. Wilson recoil springs are made from the finest possible high tensile spring steel to assure a consistently smooth action, positive ignition and proper timing. Sliding over the recoil spring guide and resting between the guide and recoil spring is a Wilson Shok-Buff. This 1/10-inch thick, injection-molded, blue poly fiber buffer prevents the slide from battering the frame during recoil. It should be replaced after 1,000 rounds. It reduces wear on the slide and frame significantly and Wilson has sold close to a million of them.

Wilson's Commander-style hammer is skeletonized to provide a faster lock time without sacrificing reliabil-

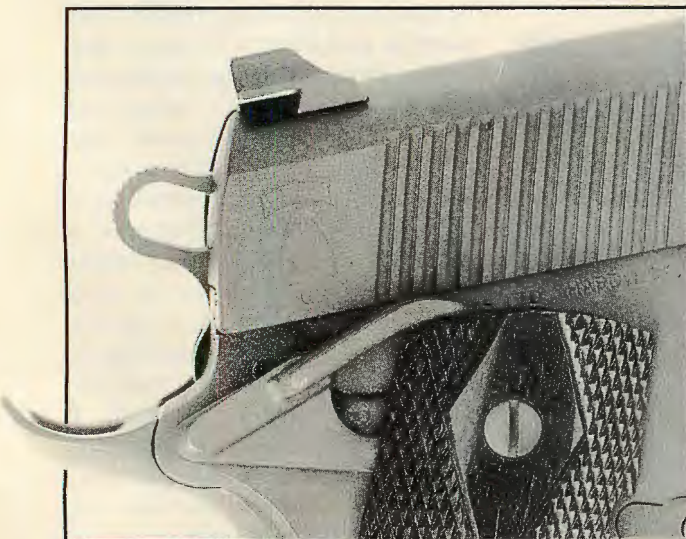




Additional cocking serrations at the front of Special Ops CQB slide assist in "press checking" the pistol in order to visually determine if there is a round in the chamber.



Wilson thumb safety has a narrow profile and is easier to manipulate than the standard-issue Government Model .45 thumb safety.



Right side of Wilson ambidextrous thumb safety is an essential feature for left-handed shooters and also permits manipulation of the safety while training with the weak hand.

ity. This investment-cast component is machined to an exact final dimension and then heat-treated. Hammer bite is a serious problem for those who shoot the M1911 series from the Weaver position. Wilson's high ride beavertail grip safety prevents this and also features a pocket to enhance the pistol's snag-free qualities. When carried cocked-and-locked, the commander-style hammer rests down in the beavertail. In addition, this beavertail grip safety positions the hand closer to the bore's axis to spread the recoil over a broader surface. Finally, the bottom of this grip safety has a raised "Posi-Release" tab which provides positive grip safety disengagement while serving as a grip memory point during the drawstroke.

My first experience with ambidextrous thumb safeties, more than 20 years ago, was negative. During that time frame, I carried a cocked-and-locked Colt Combat Commander with a pinned grip safety and ambidextrous thumb safety from a famous pistol-smith of that era. The thumb safety would frequently disengage merely by brushing up against my jacket.

I had it removed. Wilson's ambidextrous thumb safety has a narrow profile and has been properly installed to prevent this. While this is an essential feature for left-handed shooters, there are other applications, such as training with the weak hand.

The Wilson ultralight match trigger found on this pistol weighs only 90 grains complete with an overtravel adjustment screw. The three-hole skeletonized pad (to reduce "trigger bounce" which is tough on a finely adjusted trigger and potentially dangerous with a light trigger pull weight) is machined from aircraft-grade aluminum with a serrated front surface and a silver matte finish. The bow is hardened stainless steel which has been polished to reduce bow-to-frame friction. The trigger was adjusted for a crisp, creep-free 3.75-pound trigger pull weight on *SOF's* test specimen.

The frame's feed ramp was polished to enhance feeding hollow points. An extended combat ejector was installed. Wilson's ejectors are machined from 4130 bar stock and heat-treated for maximum durability. They are designed to provide optimal case clearance and endure the constant pounding generated by military ball and even hotter handloads.

An M1911-type flat mainspring housing was installed on the Special Ops CQB. Unlike Colt's component which is now made of plastic, Wilson's mainspring housing is machined from bar stock with real cut checkering at 20 lpi. I personally like the feel of a flat mainspring housing when combined with a long match-type trigger. To further enhance magazine changing under stress, an oversized magazine guide has been added to the bottom of the magazine-well. If desired (i.e., to compact the envelope for concealed carry), this magazine guide can be easily separated from the pistol by removing the mainspring housing retaining pin and then reinstalling the pin.

Our Special Ops CQB pistol was fitted with Wilson exotic-wood, checkered grip panels. While those of our test specimen were ebony, other options include coco bolo, rosewood, tulipwood and kingwood. All carry Wilson's escutcheon.

Wilson-Rogers 8-round magazines for M1911-type pistols are the stan-





Special Ops CQB's front strap and mainspring housing feature EDM-cut checkering. Other features include Wilson exotic-wood, checkered grip panels and the Wilson-Rogers eight-round magazine.

Standard by which all others must be judged and the magazine that should have been developed for the Government Model .45 eight and a half decades ago. Their single most salient feature is a removable base pad and follower-spring floor plate. Only those who have jammed pieces of wood into a 1911 magazine to compress the follower spring enough to insert a drift into the vent holes so the follower can be tapped out and the spring subsequently removed — hundreds and hundreds of times — can appreciate how important this feature is.

Wilson-Rogers magazines are the choice of top competitors, U.S. military special operations personnel and thousands of armed professionals. The bodies are made of 17-7 aircraft-grade stainless steel, heat-treated to RC 38 and precision formed from 0.027-inch gauge metal. The self-lubricating followers are made from a high-strength, custom-blended, Fiber-Fill nylon as is the base pad. The follower spring is made from heavy-duty, high-tensile-strength spring wire to reduce "spring set" and provide the longest possible spring life. I have been personally using these outstanding magazines for many years and can verify their

uncompromising reliability and durability. Performance of the Special Ops CQB pistol was exceptional during SOF's test and evaluation. Several thousand rounds were fired and there were no stoppages of any kind. The accuracy of this pistol at gun fighting ranges is outstanding. After several years of carrying and shooting alloy-frame Commander and Officer's ACP versions of the M1911, I found the perceived recoil of this full-size, steel-frame Government Model .45 to be totally inconsequential. Furthermore, the longer sight radius provided better accuracy when firing from the

kneeling position at 25 yards and roll-over prone from 50 yards. I have since laid the abbreviated forms aside and now carry the Special Ops CQB on a daily basis.

The limited edition Special Ops CQB pistol complete with one Wilson-Rogers eight-round magazine, pistol rug and the finest maintenance manual, bar none, that I have ever

## Special Ops CQB Specifications

Caliber:	.....45 ACP.
Operation:	.....Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, single-action trigger system with frame-mounted thumb and grip safeties.
Weight:	.....39 ounces, empty; 45 ounces fully loaded with nine rounds.
Length, overall:	.....8 5/8 inches.
Height:	.....5 7/8 inches.
Width (at the grips):	.....1 5/16 inches.
Barrel:	.....416 stainless steel forging; six-groove, right-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches.
Barrel length:	.....5 inches.
Magazine:	.....Single-column with eight-round capacity; stainless steel body and removable base pad and floor plate.
Sights:	.....Low-profile, snag-free, fixed front and rear with tritium inserts.
Finish:	.....Matte black milspec "Parkerized" (phosphate).
Price:	.....\$1,999, complete with one Wilson-Rogers eight-round magazine, pistol rug and maintenance manual.
Manufacturer:	.....Wilson's Gun Shop Inc., Dept. SOF, Route 3, P.O. Box 578, Berryville, AR 72616-0578; phone: 800-955-4856.
T&E summary:	.....Exceptional reliability, accuracy potential and durability. All of the extra features desired by armed professionals. After 85 years, still the most effective gun-fighting cartridge in the most efficient envelope.



Wilson's Special Ops CQB Government Model .45 ACP pistol, fieldstripped.

seen on the M1911 series, sells for \$1,999. This is just about what you can expect to pay for a pistol with this many custom features. It was designed for those who make a living with such tools, and who will pay — without hesitation — this amount, and more, for the impressive reliability and performance characteristics Bill Wilson provides. ✕



# Feds, Fun & Fas



In the Smokey Mountain foothills east of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the 16th annual "Good O' Boy Roundup," a four-day festival of barbecue and beer-guzzling — rafting by day, rowdiness by night — was attended by hundreds of federal, state and local law enforcement officials from as far away as Canada.

## Guvmint Good Ol' Boys G



# cists

by James L. Pate



courtesy Media Bypass

# it Caught

**Politics makes** strange bedfellows, the old saw goes. Such is the evolution of anti-militia politics. Some law enforcement agents are in bed with their one-time liberal critics from certain so-called civil rights groups. Stranger still, apparently some of these cops may occasionally wear the sheets under which the ersatz Samaritans hide agendas more attuned to political expedience than attacking racism anywhere it's found.

It was found in May on the scenic banks of the Ocoee River, in the Smokey Mountain foothills east of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The occasion was the 16th annual "Good O' Boy Roundup," a four-day festival of barbecue and beer-guzzling — rafting by day, rowdiness by night — by hundreds of federal, state and local law enforcement officials from as far away as Canada.

A congressional hearing was quickly held. Convincing testimony was heard that blatantly racist behavior is, to some extent, an unmistakable characteristic of the all-white gathering started 16 years ago by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Heads of the Treasury Department and Department of Justice agencies confirmed the participation of some agents. Sworn affidavits alleged gang rapes in years past, and drug use by lawmen, including agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The roundup's sordid reputation was attested to by lower-ranking black agents personally acquainted with the annual drunkfest and its founder, Eugene Rightmyer, a retired ATF special agent in charge who used government resources to organize and coordinate the invitation-only event. (Both the ATF and the FBI have been sued by minority agents charging systematic racism in hiring and promotion practices, and a management tolerance of racial slurs.) Party behavior is monitored by an ex officio group of ATF agents led by Rightmyer known as the MOB, or Mean Old Bastards.

## Blame The Militias

But when it was learned that the event had come to the attention of the mainstream news media through the efforts of an Alabama militia leader, the story focus quickly changed to a shoot-the-messenger

mode. Civil rights groups such as the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which had remained curiously silent during the initial cacophony of outrage, came to the defense of the federal law enforcement agents, and used the opportunity to paint militia groups — and, by extension, anyone who advocates the right of free association by an armed citizenry — as themselves racist.

This, in turn, resurrected questions among conservatives about whether the objectivity and integrity of the SPLC and ADL have been compromised by political correctness and financial concerns. These non-governmental organizations (NGOs) depend on fund-raising driven by fear. They regularly trade intelligence with various federal and state law enforcement agencies on targeted groups. Any criticism of these agencies by the NGOs could disrupt the intelligence pipeline, and thus jeopardize fund-raising.

Despite the unmistakable eagerness of both sides of the argument to exploit the ensuing news coverage for purposes of political propaganda, legitimate questions remain. Are the ugly incidents attributed to the Good O' Boy Roundup isolated in an otherwise boisterous, but benign get-together? Or do they document a pattern of widespread and willful racist conduct that may permeate federal law enforcement agencies?

An 11 July story stripped across the top front page of *The Washington Times* proclaimed that "Racist Ways Die Hard at Lawmen's Retreat; Annual 'Good O' Boy Roundup' Cited as Evidence of Klan Attitude at ATF." Breaking just as another round of congressional Waco hearings were about to begin, the story stunned the beleaguered leaders of ATF. Already reeling from revelations of wrongdoing in the Waco and Randy Weaver cases, plus long-pending class-action lawsuits alleging sex and race discrimination by management, news about the ATF-organized bacchanal fast became a public relations nightmare.

"They're trying to tone down the racist trappings" reporter Jerry Seper wrote in his opening salvo in the 11 July edition of *The Washington Times*. "There was a lot to tone down."

Indeed. Gag cards were circulated at this year's party purporting to be





courtesy Jeff Randall

**Eugene Rightmyer (facing camera), a retired ATF special agent in charge, used government resources to organize and coordinate the invitation-only event. Party behavior is monitored by an ex officio group of ATF agents led by Rightmyer known as the MOB, which stands for Mean Old Bastards.**

“Federal Nigger Hunting Licenses.” (This is the same type of card that caused a furor when posted on an ATF office bulletin board in the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City.)

Lawmen at the May event also traded, sold and chuckled over racially offensive T-shirts, witnesses said. One popular shirt showed black football star and celebrity murder defendant O.J. Simpson in a hangman’s noose. Another shirt showed civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in the cross hairs of a rifle scope. Still another was emblazoned with a photo of several Washington, D.C., police officers standing next to a black suspect sprawled across the front of a patrol car, above the slogan “Boyz on the Hood.”

This year’s event, held 17-21 May, was supposed to be the cleaned-up, politically correct version of what it had been in years past. Earlier roundups included a cardboard sign posted at the entrance of the campground, proclaiming the portal as a “Nigger Checkpoint.” Similarly worded signs in years past warned that no blacks were allowed. One year, an effigy of a black man hung in a noose tied to a tree limb. Then there were the thespian productions

of years past.

In one such after-dinner skit at the campground, an ATF agent dressed as a robed Ku Klux Klansman led another white agent, his face in black make-up, by a chain around the latter’s neck, invoking racial epithets. Whipping out an unnaturally large, anatomically correct dildo from beneath his robes, the first agent simulated anal sex with the black-faced actor, the fake organ squirting liquid at the dramatic climax. In another skit, titled “The Birth of the Black Race,” set to the movie theme of “2001: A Space Odyssey,” a watermelon was broken open to reveal a black baby doll inside.

Following *The Washington Times’* lead, other newspapers, such as *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, went into a journalistic feeding frenzy. Even the ATF’s most stalwart defender, President Bill Clinton, called the reports “a sickening reminder of just how pervasive these

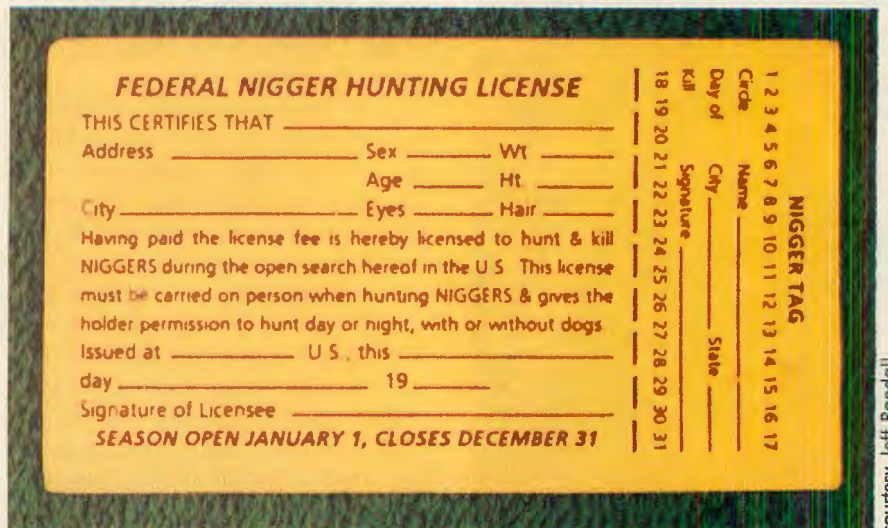
mittee held a hearing to call officials on the carpet for explanations.

### The Booming Business Of Racism

The Good O’ Boy Roundup began in 1980, organized by Rightmyer, a now-retired ATF agent who was special agent in charge of the bureau’s office in Knoxville, Tennessee. What began as a four-day party by about 50 ATF agents at a campground on the banks of the Ocoee River, grew in the last 15 years into a barbecue and beer bash that featured a golf tournament, whitewater rafting, volleyball and live music which, this year, attracted about 350 lawmen from as far away as Canada.

Originally consisting of just ATF agents from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas — the heart of moonshining country — it began as a way for the revenuers “to blow off a little steam,” Rightmyer told one newspaper reporter. As word spread in law enforcement circles, it attracted a more geographically diverse audience, including FBI and DEA agents, as well as those from the Secret Service and U.S. Customs, plus state and local cops.

More a bacchanal than a family event, most activities revolved around



courtesy Jeff Randall

**The “roundup” gained widespread circulation mainly through the efforts of two Alabama residents, Jeff Randall and Richard H. Hayward. Randall’s interest was driven by frustration over the persistent efforts of hypocritical federal law enforcement agencies to portray militia groups as racist organizations.**

kinds of attitudes still are. I am committed to finding out what happened there and to taking appropriate action.” Within 10 days of the story breaking, the Senate Judiciary Com-

a beer truck that, by many accounts, stayed busy from daylight into the wee hours. Many police officers came on motorcycles, dressed more like gangsters and outlaws than public ser-





courtesy Jeff Randall

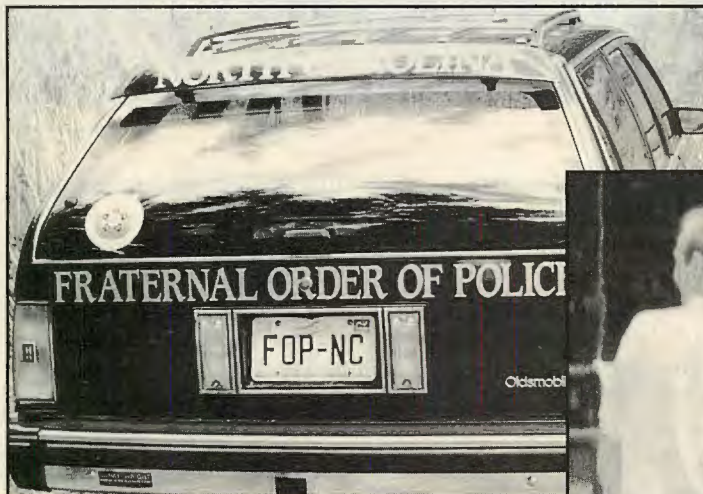
**An alleged ATF agent puts his best face forward during the "family hour" at the "Good O' Boys Roundup." Allegations of racism led to a quick congressional hearing where convincing testimony was heard that blatantly racist behavior is, to some extent, an unmistakable characteristic of the all-white gathering.**

Randall took still photographs, one of which depicts someone alleged to be a drunken ATF agent displaying his tattooed buttocks.

Randall told *Soldier Of Fortune* he became interested in the party last winter after hearing from a member of a Missouri militia group that the gathering was racist in nature. His interest was driven, he said, by frustration over the persistent efforts of federal law enforcement agencies to portray militia groups as racist organizations. Membership in the

1990 party, which contains a segment showing a hand-lettered cardboard sign on which is drawn in crayon: "Nigger Checkpoint." It was this video — and specifically the sign segment — that became the focal point of those who tried to discredit Randall's accusations as a militia-orchestrated attempt to unfairly tarnish ATF and other federal lawmen. It was further complicated by Hayward's past efforts as a campaign volunteer for David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klansman and political activist who heads a group called the National Association for the Advancement of White People.

Rightmyer initially admitted that such signs and other racist materials were present, but disavowed any connection with them, saying they were not representative of the sentiments of most party-goers. As the story unfolded, Rightmyer's story changed, and he alleged that Hayward was actually the person who put up the sign, specifically so he could video it. Hayward denied this to *SOF*, and said



**As word spread in law enforcement circles, the "roundup" attracted a more geographically diverse audience, including FBI and DEA agents, as well as those from the Secret Service and U.S. Customs, plus state and local cops.**



Photos courtesy Jeff Randall

wants out to have a little innocent fun. Grumpy's, a dirt-floor bar and grill adjacent to the campground, became an after-hours focal point of raunchy behavior, witnesses said.

The story gained widespread circulation mainly through the efforts of two Alabama residents, Jeff Randall and Richard H. Hayward. Randall, a part-time policeman and founder of a citizens militia group known as the Gadsden Minutemen, and Hayward, a retired police officer from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, went uninvited to this year's roundup.

Gadsden Minutemen, which has chapters in Alabama and Tennessee, is 10% black, he said. (Coincidentally, about 10% of the ATF's approximately 2,000 agents are black.) It was after he decided to attempt an infiltration of this year's roundup that Randall said he happened to meet Hayward, who told Randall he had attended for four consecutive years, 1989-92. Not only that, Hayward said, but he had some videotape of the

the only difference between him and Rightmyer occurred when Rightmyer asked him to stop passing out David Duke fliers at the party. Hayward said he complied. Finally, Rightmyer now claims the video of the sign is a total fabrication that was edited into footage of the roundup because Hayward was "disgruntled" over being asked to leave. Randall and Hayward also

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**“You can’t fight city hall”** implies one person cannot prevail over authority. It is very hard for one person, alone, to move any large organization, even if he heads the organization. But there is strength in numbers. The American Revolution began when individuals combined to oppose British oppression. When the king responded to peaceful petitions with armed force, the protesters became rebels.

There is also strength in arms.

watchers from all parties could observe, that no armed officer should be in a polling place, and that ballots be counted where any voter could watch the proceedings.

### **Normandy, Iwo, McMinn County**

The Great Depression and Franklin D. Roosevelt’s candidacy had reawakened McMinn County’s Democrats. The influential Cantrell family felt Roosevelt offered a way for

ferred an all-veteran non-partisan slate and their guarantee that votes, “would be counted as cast.”

The Democrats nominated Cantrell for sheriff and Mansfield for state senate. McMinn County’s Republicans endorsed the “GI” ticket.

Campaign issues were clear. The GIs billed themselves as a “clean up” ticket, urging voters to “fight for McMinn County democracy.” The Democrats alleged the GI ticket was a Republican Party front. The

## **Ex-GIs Take Up Arms To Preserve Ballot Box**

by **Jay Simkin**

After World War II, some Americans took an armed stance against oppression at home. Having freed other countries from murderous regimes, they returned unwilling to tolerate tyranny in their own back yard. These Americans wanted nothing but the rule of law. But what they found upon their return was an abusive local government. This government repeatedly held fraudulent elections, allowing ineligible people to vote, stuffing ballot boxes and holding secret counts. Appeals to state and federal officials went unanswered.

These Americans owned firearms. Their state had guaranteed in its constitution (Article 1, Section 26) the right to keep and bear arms for the common defense.

McMinn County, Tennessee, had many corrupt traditions that fostered authoritarian rule: bribing politicians or police to overlook illegal whiskey and gambling; financing the sheriff’s department from fines (usually for speeding or public drunkenness), which inspired arrests for imaginary offenses; all nature of vote fraud; abuse of the poll-tax receipt, allowing some to vote several times; “stuffing” ballots before the polls opened; vote-buying; unsupervised tallies; armed sheriff’s deputies intimidating voters and anyone who protested.

This in spite of Tennessee law which specified ballot boxes were to be opened before voting, that poll-

# **The Militia Of McMinn County**

Democrats to win control of county government. New Deal relief programs pumped money into, and helped to stabilize, a sick local economy. That helped Paul Cantrell to win the post of sheriff — de facto head of county government — in the 1936 election. In 1938 and 1940, Cantrell was narrowly reelected.

In 1942 and 1944, Cantrell was elected to the state senate. His chief deputy, Pat Mansfield, was elected McMinn County sheriff. In 1946 Cantrell decided to run again for the office of sheriff.

World War II changed McMinn County. Some 3,000 local boys went to war. Flint-edged combat veterans came home. They viewed with disfavor the corruption and saw the brutality of some sheriff’s deputies.

Sheriff Mansfield was “Cantrell’s man,” so Cantrell was held politically accountable. They also disliked Cantrell’s underpayment of teachers and misuse of the sheriff’s department revenues. Early in March 1946, a few ex-GIs quietly discussed with Athens’ leading citizens ways to make county government serve the citizens. Because these solid citizens backed the rule of law, they decided to challenge Cantrell at the polls. They of-

Cantrell/Mansfield team stood on its record.

At a mid-June rally, the ex-GIs’ campaign manager remarked, “The principles that we fought for in this past war do not exist in McMinn County. We fought for democracy because we believe in democracy but not the form we live under in this county.” Another GI campaign ad cited the Tennessee law that gave every interested voter the right to watch the vote count.

On 25 July, 159 local veterans petitioned the FBI to send election monitors. Again, there was no response. The Department of Justice had earlier ignored vote fraud complaints in 1940, 1942 and 1944. GI campaign leaders decided not to arm their poll-watchers to deter voter intimidation, as they did not wish to be “responsible for armed conflict.”

Fears that Cantrell and Mansfield would engage in voter intimidation and fraud proved justified: Mansfield imported some 200 armed “deputies.” Early on election day a GI election judge was jailed for allegedly helping someone mark a ballot, but no one was intimidated by his arrest.

Brute force also was used. Sheriff’s Deputy Clifford “Windy” Wise



shouted at Tom Gillespie, an African-American entitled to vote, "Nigger, you can't vote here today!" When Gillespie protested, Wise ejected him. Gillespie came back inside and stood in silent protest. Wise, enraged, shot Gillespie in the side. The gunshot drew a crowd. Gillespie was taken to the hospital. Rumors spread that Gillespie was dead and had been "shot in the back."

Another GI poll-watcher, who challenged a plainly underage voter, was blackjacked and then repeatedly kicked by Deputy Minus Wilburn, who then tried to shoot him. The injured GI was taken to the hospital. Two other GI poll-watchers were held in a polling station. As a crowd gathered, the two GIs smashed a window and escaped. Deputy Wise aimed, but did not shoot, perhaps because the event was being photographed.

Tensions rose. The crowd surged forward. Deputies, with guns drawn, formed a tight half-circle in front of the polling place. Windy Wise stepped to the front of the protective arc and with his gun raised high like something out of a Western movie he shouted, "You sons-of-bitches cross this street and I'll kill you!" Mansfield and a group of deputies then took ballot boxes to the jail.

By 1700 hours, the crowd had reformed in front of the veterans campaign headquarters. It was beginning to settle in on some of the deputies that they were suddenly up against men who had just liberated Europe and the South Pacific from two of the most powerful

war machines in human history. Many of the ex-GIs were ready to use force. But of the 75 to 100 ex-GIs who gathered at a nearby tire store, there were perhaps 17 guns, with little spare ammunition.

GIs entered the National and Tennessee State Guard Armories with borrowed keys, finding three M1 rifles, five .45 pistols, and 24 Enfield rifles. Other GIs foraged for firearms throughout the county.

As night fell, a mixed group of GIs and "local boys" moved toward the jail to recover the stolen ballot boxes. Some GIs went to high ground overlooking the jail; others went into a nearby building. The back of the jail was left uncovered, in hopes those inside would flee, leaving the ballot boxes. The 50 to 60 men in the jail settled down to await rescue by a force they expected from Governor Jim McCord.

### The Battle of Athens

As two ex-GIs tried to clear the area to avoid casualties in case of shooting, someone in the jail fired a shotgun, hitting both of them. Other veterans returned fire. Those inside the jail replied with pistols and a Tommy gun.

Firing subsided after 30 minutes as both sides were low on ammunition. The deputies could not count on resupply and the jail's lights had failed, making it hard to reload.

Contemporary press reports noted that the former GIs' siege was not particularly coordinated: *From the hillside, fire rose and fell in disorganized*

*cascades. More than anything else, people were simply "shooting at the jail." Someone would shoot awhile, and then go sit around and talk or get something to eat. People would come and go, shoot awhile, go drive around town and report on what was happening to family and friends, and then go back and shoot some more. A single rifle might be traded around between four or five different people during the course of the night.*

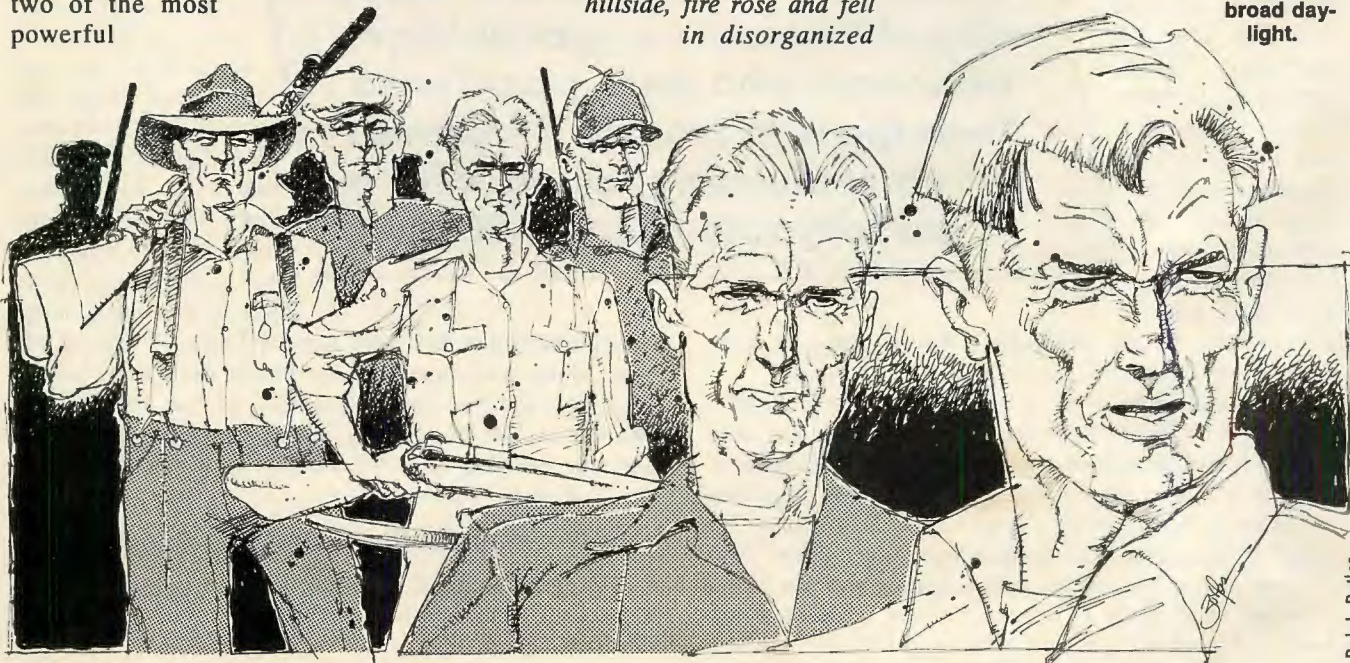
Those wounded were mostly folks who blundered into no-man's land in front of the jail. Some inside the jail were hurt, one seriously. Lacking combat experience, Cantrell's men thought the veterans would take no prisoners. Governor McCord did not send help, perhaps because he feared that veteran-filled State Guard units might refuse to shoot other ex-GIs.

At about 0200 on 2 August, men from Meigs County arrived with dynamite. After a warning, and on their third try, they tossed two or three sticks from the back of a moving jeep; the blast wrecked the jail's porch. The panicked defenders surrendered. Ex-GIs quickly secured the building. Paul Cantrell faded into the night, having almost been shot by an ex-GI who knew him.

The deputies were held until day-

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**With a long history of brutalizing voters and stuffing ballot boxes — corrupt McMinn County officials clashed swords with an armed populace when they stole ballot boxes in broad daylight.**



Ralph Butler



# SHADOW WAR

BY F. C. BROWN

**Southeast Asia** scholar Kenneth Conboy's new book *Shadow War: The CIA's Secret War in Laos*, written in cooperation with Special Forces veteran Jim Morrison, fills a long-recognized void in our understanding of events in the Kingdom of Laos during the period of 1960 to 1975.

The product of more than a decade of research, *Shadow War* successfully combines gripping, true-life, clandestine warfare accounts with exhaustive historical research (i.e.,

who operated in the Viet Minh rear. The authors provide new details on a number of GCMA operations and, commenting on northern Laos in the early 1950s, note, "So effective was GCMA control that the Pathet Lao were forced to relocate their headquarters from Sam Neua town 28 kilometers south-east to the village of Vieng Sai."

With the exit of French forces from Southeast Asia in 1954-55, the United States sought to fill the void, and in Laos it took the shape of CIA operatives and active duty military members on "special assignment." The Soviets and North Vietnamese, for their part, openly backed the Pathet Lao, with the Soviets undertaking a mammoth airborne logistics effort to keep the Pathet Lao supplied. President Kennedy set the tone in March 1961, when he declared that "Laos is far from America, but the world is small ... the security of all Southeast Asia will be endangered if Laos loses its neutral independence." White Star mobile training teams were introduced, drawn from the ranks of American Army Spe-

## UNVEILING THE SECRET WAR IN LAOS

more than 600 personal interviews) to produce what surely will come to be recognized as the definitive account of the "secret war" in Laos — a conflict far too long overshadowed by the war in Vietnam. Adding spice to the narrative are the *dramatis personae* — ranging from legendary CIA operatives like Tony Poe and Jerry "Hog" Daniels to H'mong leader Vang Pao and his nemesis, Soupannavong, the "Red Prince," as well as primitive hill tribesmen, Thai mercenaries

and remnants of the nationalist Chinese army. In short, a cast of characters that would task even the Bard.

The book opens with a concise but comprehensive rendering of "The French War," documenting the rise of the Lao Issara and the emergence of the Pathet Lao movement. The role of the communist Vietnamese in guiding and shaping the fledgling Pathet Lao is also explored in detail — including joint combat operations in the field. Of particular interest is the section dealing with the Mixed Airborne Commando Group, or GCMA, a marquis network of French officers and NCOs and H'mong partisans

cial Forces, to bolster the capabilities of the Royal Lao government.

These White Star teams were often on the front lines and frequently came under enemy fire. In April 1961

Team Moon, led by Army Captain Walter Moon, was with a Royal Lao unit on Route 13 when they came under heavy Pathet Lao artillery and small arms fire. Two of the advisers were killed and Moon and his demolitions NCO, Sergeant Orville Ballenger, were captured, becoming, as the

authors note, the first two Special Forces POWs of the war. Moon was moved to the Plaine des Jarres, where, after two abortive escape attempts, he was executed by the Pathet Lao on 22 July 1961. Ballenger was routed through several prison camps before finally being released on 17 August 1962.

### Growing Conflict, Escalating Reaction

Despite diplomatic maneuvering and political posturing by all sides involved in Laos, the war continued to escalate, driven in part by the expansion of the war in

**Operation "Leaping Lena," which utilized Vietnamese special forces personnel who were parachuted into the hills around Tchepone, was a resounding failure, with a casualty rate of some 90%.**



Vietnam. This was particularly true of the area along the eastern edge of the Lao panhandle, home of the vaunted Ho Chi Minh Trail. The trail had been inaugurated in May 1959 by the North Vietnamese as the main conduit for men and supplies moving into South Vietnam, and was run by the 559 Group, a clandestine transportation unit. As the authors note in detail, early efforts to interdict the ever-increasing traffic along the trail were a mixed bag. Operation "Leaping Lena," which utilized Vietnamese special forces personnel who were parachuted into the hills around Tchepone, was a resounding failure, with a casualty rate of some 90%. However, other operations, like the CIA-sponsored "Hardnose," were more successful and were expanded.

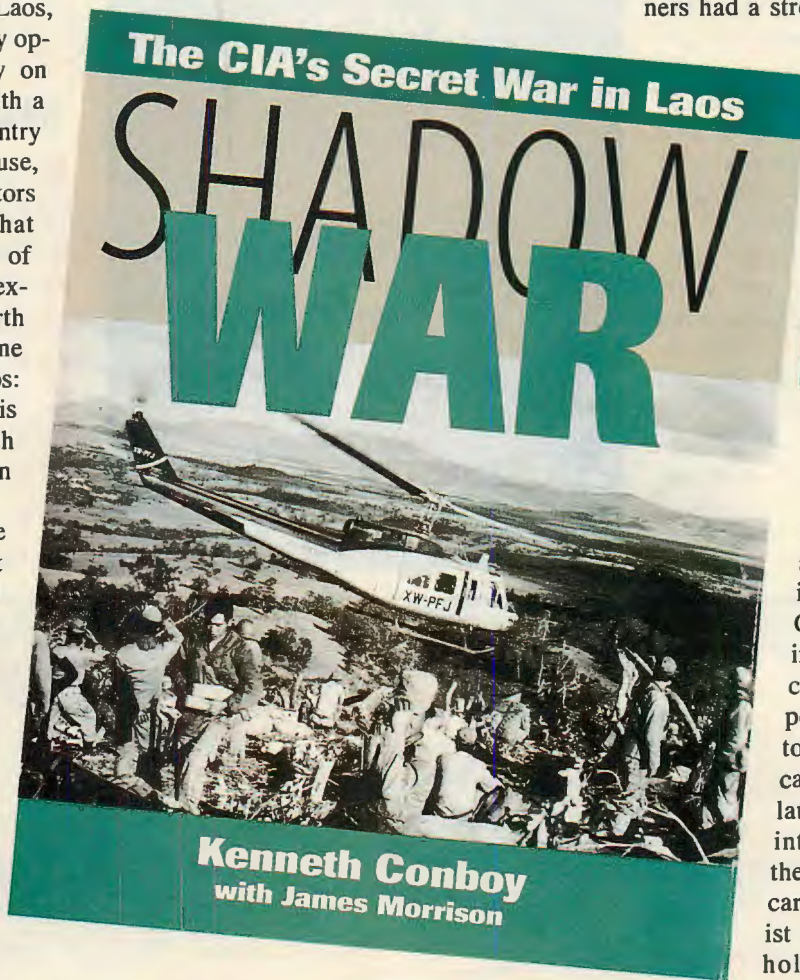
The authors dub 1967 the "Year of the Guerrilla" in Laos, noting that prior paramilitary operations "focused primarily on intelligence gathering ... with a minimal number of up-country advisers and an effort to use, when possible, Thai instructors in lieu of Americans." That changed, however, as part of the overall U.S. strategy to exert more pressure on North Vietnam. Or, as stated by one CIA training officer in Laos: "The late spring of 1967 is when we made the switch from intelligence collection to 'bang and burn.'"

Accordingly, plans were formulated for more direct action, to include raids and ambushes against the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao, and this in turn led to a proliferation of CIA-sponsored special guerrilla units. Additional case officers also arrived, many of whom had previously served in Army Special Forces or the Marines. This increase in direct offensive action affected every corner of the kingdom, and much of the activity was orchestrated by the Agency's head of the Vientiane station, Ted Shackley.

One of the more colorful characters who came to prominence during this period was Tony Poe (Poe being the abbreviated version of a virtually unpronounceable Polish name), who had devoted his life to the CIA's Laos program. A hulking former Marine paratrooper, Poe held a B.A. in English literature from a California university and had been a scratch golfer on the country club circuit prior to joining the Agency. A two-fisted drinker who always spoke his mind, he was married to a H'mong princess and had been formally adopted into the H'mong tribe. In 1967 he was at Nam Yu as the CIA's ranking adviser, and also held sway over a region known as Guerrilla Forces/West, from which he repeatedly launched forays against the

encroaching Pathet Lao. One particularly sensitive operation, which involved the rescue of thousands of Lao refugees under Pathet Lao control around Nam Tha, close to the Chinese border, caused protestations from bureaucrats at the State Department. Seeking to do damage control, "(Ambassador) Sullivan, to respond to the howls from Foggy Bottom, and possibly as a show for the Chinese, was obliged to slap Poe's wrist." The refugees, however, were not returned, and Poe continued his work in the field. Such was the nature of the war in the "land of a million elephants."

One of the more intriguing sections of the book, "Into the Middle Kingdom," deals with CIA-sponsored cross-border operations into China — a topic only vaguely hinted at in other books of this genre. Washington planners had a strong interest in gaining access to the



Though not commonly known, in late spring of 1967 the U.S. made the switch from intelligence gathering to "bang and burn" in Laos.

People's Republic, especially after the Bamboo Curtain slammed closed during the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution in the mid-1960s. Accordingly, CIA outposts in northern Laos took on new significance, functioning as launch sites for forays into China. Many of the early missions were carried out by nationalist Chinese expatriates holed up in Burma. Later, they were re-

placed by Lao hill tribesmen. The authors provide hard details on these previously highly classified missions, and it is some of the most interesting reading in the book.

### Into China

Writing of one 1966 operation, the authors note: "(Detachment) Fox was lifted aboard Air America H-34s to the border northeast of Muong Sing. There the team established a campsite, then sent three members five kilometers east across the border toward the Chinese town of Meng Mang. Avoiding contact, the trio located its target: a telephone line running from Meng Mang ... a tap was affixed to the central insulator, then a 45-meter wire strung

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Last month, *SOF* Publisher Bob Brown and his intrepid band ran the good race and fought the good fight to smuggle a truck load of fire fighting and medical gear past Serb gunners into besieged Sarajevo. We continue as they rescue a desperately needed fire truck from under the sights of Serb snipers, then plan their exfil to *The World*.

**It was obvious** that they had been shot up by the Serbs, when the former British army Leyland truck pulled into the Sarajevo Fire Department yard, towing a large, red former London fire-department pumper truck. The U.N.-white paint of the Leyland was flecked silver around ragged holes made by a sniper's bullets. The side windows in the red pumper truck had been completely shot out and one well-aimed round had gone through the windshield about where Canadian firefighter Todd Bayless' head had been before he ducked.

"Lucky, lucky, lucky," observed Doc Rodriguez as he ex-

# HARD ROAD HOME

by John Hogan  
Photos by Mark Milstein

"Nothing is More  
Exhilarating than  
to be Shot at  
Without Result."

— Winston Churchill

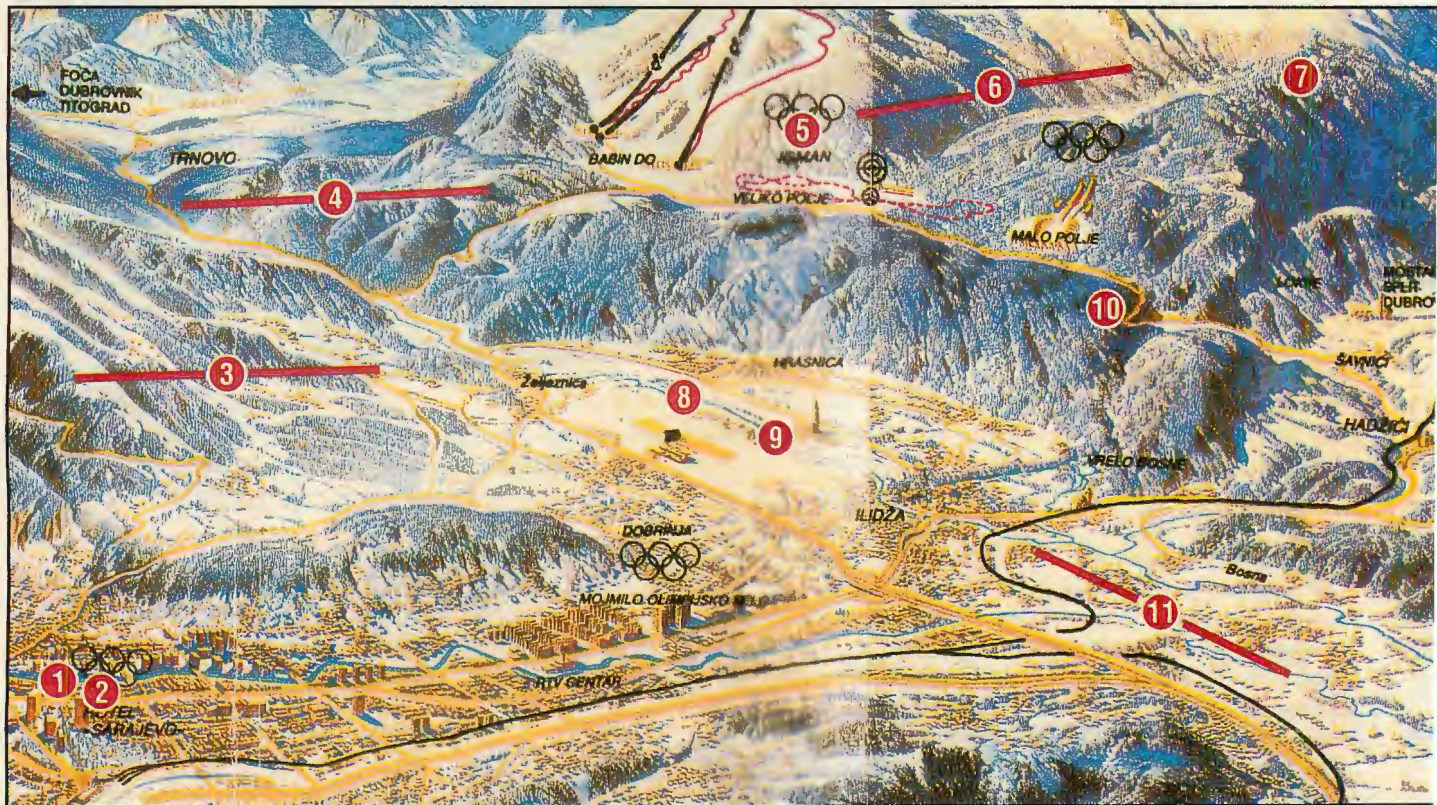
amined the trucks and their occupants, deciding all were in acceptable condition. It was just another Saturday in Sarajevo.

In three years of driving in and out of Sarajevo, Brit Bob Barrett (chairman of Fireman's Relief Aid) has been targeted by direct fire "10 or 11 times depending on how you count them." In Bosnia, indirect fire such as mortars, rockets and artillery don't count unless you get hit or it comes close; it is usually a random act and if you catch some it was just bad luck.

## SARAJEVO

- 1 Sniper Alley
- 2 Holiday Inn
- 3 Serb Gun Positions
- 4 Serb Gun Positions
- 5 Mount Igman
- 6 Rapid Reaction Force
- 7 Igman Road
- 8 Airport
- 9 Tunnel
- 10 Breakdown Ridge
- 11 Serb Gun Positions

## SARAJEVO



Over Mount Igman via Breakdown Ridge, or through the tunnel, there is no safe way in or out of besieged Sarajevo — and no safe place once you get there. Maybe the fire gear *SOF* smuggled in will make it a little safer for some.





**Don't shoot at GOFRS fire/rescue workers when they're saving lives, or you may find yourself in a firefight of a different stripe with honcho John Jordan. Jordan and his legendary M1A provide up close and personal protection for rescue workers who have enough to contend with without yellow-bellied snipers.**

But, direct fire is a highly personal matter when someone tries to inflict egregious, invasive harm on your very own warm body.

"I don't know much about guns, and I don't like them but I certainly take an interest in them when they are pointed in my direction," Barrett said as he pointed to each bullet hole and noted the approximate order they came in. The main cluster of shots hit the cab, then the sniper moved back toward the fire truck, and placed another cluster in the cab all around Bayless. It was miraculous the sniper didn't actually hit anybody since the trucks had to drive through the killing zone at 10 mph.

Bayless had an explanation: "We were a ridiculous sight. When that sniper saw that red fire truck packed with boxes of old clothes being towed across the airport by that big white truck he probably said nobody but idiots would try that kind of crap and he laughed his ass off and missed."

"It was obvious," said Barrett, "they were waiting for us. One of their spotters probably got on the radio to Serb HQ at Lukavica Bar-

racks and they sent the sniper out."

### **U.N.: Peacekeepers Or Peaceniks?**

The Serbs knew well of John Jordan and the volunteer firefighters. Jordan said that he used to be on decent terms with them. "Hey, we are firemen trying to help anyone who needs it. We used to cross Serb lines and put out their fires too, but it started to go sour one day when a couple of U.N. Civil Police were trapped in a car wreck. I couldn't get a truck in close enough because Serb snipers were very active, and I couldn't get any help from the U.N. It was amazing, one of their own trapped in a vehicle with an engine in his lap and a sniper is trying to finish him off.

"We watched one of them die and the other one would too if we didn't neutralize the sniper. I had seen the muzzle flash and Bosnians who were there also identi-

fied the window — they'd been shot at quite a bit from there, so I started laying some rounds in slow-fire with the M1A from about 400 yards out. Anyway the sniper was drunk or something, he was hanging out the window and I got him. Two days later we were fighting a fire on the hill above the stadium and the Serbs put mortars on us and their snipers shot up the fire truck. I returned the sniper fire and it became a major firefight. Relations weren't good and two days later U.S. jets led the NATO air strikes against Serb positions. American relations with the Serbs were not good from there on.

"We've neutralized a lot of Serb snipers since then and they would definitely like to have our ass," Jordan said. "And you know what the U.N. did for us saving their guy when they couldn't? They screamed like hell and said we had no right to defend ourselves while we are fighting their fires and saving their people, and they sent armed U.N. troops over to take back the equipment they lent us.

"If I told someone in a bar back home about that, they wouldn't believe it. They would say nothing could be that fucked up. But the U.N. is really that fucked up!"

Every Serb in the world knew of our trip into Sarajevo because all the



**SOF Publisher Bob Brown (right) helps GOFRS personnel in Sarajevo try on donated Scott Air-Paks, smuggled in for firefighters by SOF/RR1 team.**



details had been laid out the day before on Fox TV. Fox was supposed to delay an interview done with Brown at Washington Dulles airport, but by virtue of some mistake it was aired prematurely in major U.S. markets and our mission had been compromised. But, that was something we didn't become aware of until much later.

What we did know was that if the Serbs were waiting for us at the killing zone on our way out, they probably would be better prepared. If there were 13 of us tightly packed in the bed of the soft-skinned truck, the probability was high that someone would be perforated. The worst part was that the randomness of bullets flying through the air guaranteed that all of us had a pretty even chance of catching the bad news.

There were only three ways out of Sarajevo: drive out the way we came



GOFRS founder John Jordan is interviewed by BBC's Martin Bell in Sarajevo, before team exfiltrated to Croatia.

in, across the killing zone on the airport tarmac; leave the truck behind and try to get permission from the Bosnian government to go through the crowded tunnel under the tarmac; or try walking out at night through

the city of 425,000 enjoyed all of the comforts and indulgences of any major European metropolis. But everyone who could escape the city did so at some point during the three years of the Serbian siege. All that remain are perhaps

150,000 malnourished souls in a city with neighborhoods that look as bombed out as Dresden during WWII. Virtually every building in Sarajevo has been hit with some kind of ordnance; absolutely nothing has remained untouched.

In the main, people have given up using frequently targeted graveyards and have begun to use any nearby patch of dirt to bury their dead. But with no food for the civilian population delivered by the United Nations in four months, every available patch of dirt is also used to



Transporting goods in an open truck across Sarajevo gives new meaning to the term "mean streets." Former Brit Army Leyland, still in U.N. white, provided little more than psychological cover for SOF's team of intrepid smugglers.



grow vegetables. As a result, mom or brother is buried in the front yard under the tomato and carrot crop.

### Medicines Sans Hoarders

As Brown and Jordan began working on the route and method of our exfil, Doc Rodriguez went out to distribute medicines we'd smuggled in, to Sarajevo hospitals and clinics (see sidebar). The neighborhood clinics that first receive trauma cases were largely without the medicines and implements they needed to treat gunshot wounds. Checking the logs of the incoming cases, Rodriguez found the single greatest threat to public health in Sarajevo was snipers. Listed were cases that would have made the news nationally if they had happened in Seattle or Richmond, but seemed pretty ordinary in Sarajevo.

There was a seven-year-old girl shot down while playing in her backyard, an old woman who was too slow crossing a street and others — clearly not male military types — who were shot down in cold blood. Snipers on the Serb side of Sarajevo are not necessarily Serbs. According to the Bosnian military, there are also a few

Russians, a few Americans and even a Japanese national who carries journalist's credentials. They use Yugoslav-made SVD knockoffs and 98 Mausers, but the most common sniper weapon is a belt-fed RPD in 7.62x39mm, mounting a 4X scope. The common technique is to locate a target at any range and fire bursts, adjusting fire up or down as it goes.

"On balance," said Rodriguez, "shooting little girls in their own backyard is a pretty chickenshit way to operate. Somebody would be doing planet Earth a favor if they took out some of those snipers."

Unfortunately, the countersniping is limited on the Bosnian government side. According to Jordan, the expertise, let alone equipment, just isn't there. In fairness to the Bosnian army, even the highly touted countersniper radar deployed more than a year ago by French U.N. forces has done little to check the sniper problem.

Shortly before curfew, Brown suggested we go to the Holiday Inn for a beer and all 13 of us, including half the off-duty firemen, loaded into a VW bus, a truck and several cars. Brown and I were unlucky enough to

get into the lead VW driven by Jordan. I asked Mark Proulx, sitting in the middle holding both Jordan's MIA and an AR-15, if he wanted to sit on the outside. "Nah, we aren't going to stop to shoot it out. If we take any fire it will be near the Holiday Inn."

The streets of the government-held sections of Sarajevo were not lit and clouds blocked the sky, making it black on the bleak streets of Sarajevo. Jordan had his nose to the windshield and the accelerator to the floor running 60 miles an hour with no lights. With little gasoline in the city there wasn't much traffic, but several times we swerved to narrowly avoid head-ons with other speeding and lightless vehicles.

The nearest miss, however, was with a dumpster Jordan didn't see in the darkened street. Every so often Jordan turned on the lights just to adjust his course: Navigating the darkened streets of Sarajevo gives a new meaning to the term "dead reckoning."

Stepping from the dark of a blacked-out city and into the lobby of the Holiday Inn is like stepping onto the set of a black-and-white



Chairman Bob Barrett of the Brit organization Fireman's Relief Aid did honors at wheel of aging Leyland truck for trips over Mount Igman, and towed disabled fire truck home under fire from Sarajevo airport. He's been target of sniper fire some 11 times while on duty.



Hitchcock movie. One of the first things people notice is that the place looks pretty run down. There aren't many lights and the dimly lit marble floors and high ceilings are likely to leave one thinking of Egyptian tombs.

### Only A War For The Locals

Most of the occupants of the Holiday Inn are on expense accounts paid by television networks, humanitarian organizations and the United Nations. For enough money the best to be had in Sarajevo is found in the basement-level bar and dining room. The booths along the wall were occupied by TV crews plus a few U.N. types and a jungle-camouflaged British army captain having gourmet meals by candle-

Italian TV reporter cut into a steak that likely cost \$100, Doc Rodriguez noted what a remarkable sight it was, considering that the meat ration in Sarajevo had been one can per person per month.

After about 30 Bosnian and American firemen sat down, Brown ordered several rounds of beer and soft drinks for everyone at \$5 each. Fortunately, a wire-service reporter on an expense account ended up paying the \$485 tab. *SOF* photog Mark Milstein and I went up to the sixth floor to have a look at the war. We guessed that some people would no doubt live through the night because of the bad weather.

That no sooner said, an armored Land Rover of the type favored by

to a new low when they gave the Serbs back the artillery surrounding Sarajevo in June and then abandoned to the Serbs the safe areas of Zepa and Srebrenica in July.

It was the Srebrenica example that worried Sarajevans the most. According to the survivors' accounts and information collected by intelligence services, there were mass murders and rapes after the fall of Srebrenica. According to survivors, a number of refugees were coaxed out of the woods and murdered by Serbs wearing U.N. helmets.

### The Best Of Bad Options

Early Sunday we pondered the information crucial to our exfil. The tunnel was absolutely out. Although the Bosnians certainly appreciated the Scott Air-Paks and all of the great work done by Jordan and his firemen, they could not allow us to clog the tunnel. They were just being practical about preserving the only lifeline into the city to build up supplies, which could now be moved down Mount Igman, but might be cut off if fighting intensified due to Serb anger over an unrelated Croatian offensive.

The only viable possibility

was driving across the tarmac of Sarajevo's Butmir airport and up Mount Igman, and that route was also overloaded with what-ifs. The first was, what if the French simply refused to let us pass? We all knew that the French were only allowed by the Serbs to control the airport if they cooperated. In fact there was a French military liaison officer sitting in Lukavica Barracks who reported nearly everything he heard on the radio to his French-speaking Serbian



***SOF* Publisher Bob Brown, right, and Paul Fanshaw discuss various poor options for getting back out of Sarajevo in one piece. They made it.**

light. The same piano player who for three years has been playing Balkanized versions of "New York, New York" and "Sunday Kind of Love" was hard at work, his black suit only slightly fraying at the cuffs.

Everyone appeared remarkably well fed, compared to folks outside who suffered visibly from malnutrition. There is plenty of black-market food in Sarajevo, but the prices are in German marks and too high for ordinary people. As we watched a fat

journalists from the television networks started out of the front driveway and was immediately engaged. Trying it once again, the Land Rover fell in behind a French light armored car and ventured out. The result was the same, but the firing seemed more intense, as if it were coming from both the Serb and the Bosnian sides. Both sides — perhaps everyone involved in the war — have grown a certain contempt for the United Nations. That organization's esteem went



counterpart. All that had to happen would be the Serbs telling the French to hold up that truck long enough to call in coordinates and dump a few four-deuce mortar rounds on it.

When some other official and unofficial Americans tried to smuggle donated telephone equipment into Sarajevo to connect its telephones to the world, the French repeatedly stopped them by informing the Serbs. The equipment eventually got through, but the French simply could not be trusted because they had their own agenda, which didn't have much to do with doing the right thing.

Assuming the French did let us through their checkpoint, they might keep us long enough for that sniper with the SVD to get set up, or maybe the guy was already sitting out there waiting for us.

### Serb Bullet Holes In Window Of Opportunity

On Saturday afternoon, television interviews regarding the operation were given to both CNN and BBC reporters and it was likely that these would run on Sunday evening, which meant we had better be across the tarmac before that. We had smuggled a helluva lot of difficult-to-smuggle items, including 20 Scott Air-Paks, \$10,000 worth of medicines and a red fire truck, into Sarajevo right in front of the Serbs' faces. Then Brown and Jordan went on television, rubbing the Serbs' noses in it. This made for bad public relations with the Serbs, who might well dedicate some resources to try to kill us for it.

Even if we made it across the tarmac and onto the other side, four semi-trucks were destroyed by Serb artillery at the Hrasnica Bridge a couple hours after we passed through, and we had no choice but to use the same route back. Beyond, there was Mount Igman and high exposure to the Serb 20mm aimed along Break-down Ridge.

"There is no way in hell that anyone is that goddamned lucky," interjected Doc Rodriguez, who immediately went to work sorting out implements and supplies he would need to clamp off bleeders and start IVs into those of us who would need it.

Benefits of driving the white truck were clearly outweighed by the disadvantages. Being mistaken for the

United Nations might give us some official advantage with French privates, but it might also cause us some grief with the Bosnians, and being shot by your friends kills you just as dead. And the high-visibility white was no deterrent to the Serbs.

"When we go through, somebody is going to take a shot at us," said Jordan as we interlocked sandbags along the front and sides of the truck bed. "They see a dozen guys in blue uniforms hunkered down in the bed

along the front corner of the truck bed and along the side to the rear. If the Serb sitting on that 20mm so much as twitched his finger, those 20mm rounds would sail through the tailgate, the sandbags, everyone in the back and into the cab before it broke the engine and exited out the radiator. Protecting the driver was the next problem.

Brown rode next to me, talking into his tape recorder as we bumped through shot-up and burned-out

## MEDICINES INTO SARAJEVO

Along with Scott Air-Paks for Sarajevo firefighters, four members of Refugee Relief International humped in some \$10,000 worth of critically needed medical supplies. Medicines consisted of antibiotics, anesthesia medicines and equipment. The anesthesia medicines were muscle relaxants, sedative hypnotics, reversal agents, dissociative anesthetics, vasopressors, benzodiazepines and local anesthetics for spinal and epidural anesthesia. Equipment included stethoscopes, blood-pressure cuffs, laryngoscopy equipment, blood administration sets, ambu bags, reusable glass syringes and spinal needles.

The RRI team also taught a special course in anesthesia, using only intravenous solutions. Their technique, known as "total intravenous anesthesia," has been used successfully by Refugee Relief surgical teams in Burma and Colombia. Sarajevo anesthesia teams were anxious to learn from the RRI instructors, because they often have no electricity, oxygen or functioning equipment in major trauma situations. This new technique gave them the capability of providing surgical anesthesia "under the gun" when all other systems are down.

Medicine in Sarajevo is virtually impossible to obtain. Nothing is thrown away if there is a chance for its reuse. It is common to see medicines more than two years expired, still in use.

As the truck once again crossed Mount Igman and out of sniper range, we couldn't help but wonder if Sarajevo would last another winter: We're leaving and they're not. Our gift of medicines that had previously seemed so heavy to carry now seemed so insufficient in the face of such great need. We did the best we could, no need to come down so hard on ourselves, we rationalized. Besides, there were enough antibiotics and anesthesia for almost 80 cases!

Within a week of our medical team's departure from Sarajevo, the Serbs dropped an artillery round into the city market place, killing 33 and wounding more than 80.

*If you have medicines or medical equipment (or cash) to donate — anything not requiring refrigeration or lockup — contact RRI honcho Col. Alex McColl; phone: 303-449-3750; fax: 303-444-5617. There is a crucial and immediate need.*

— Dr. Rodriguez

of this truck and they will shoot. The question is how accurate and how sustained that fire will be. As we move along we will be looking for places to hide if the engine is shot out."

Sandbags are very heavy and too many would slow down the old Leyland, so we had to put them on the side where we were most likely to get hit, which for most of the route would be the driver's side. We interlocked the sandbags as best we could

Sarajevo on our way to whatever would happen next: *It is 1615 hours and we are pulling away from the fire station all scootched down in the truck on yet another pointless adventure. We are barrelling down Sniper Alley, nothing but shot-out buildings and burned-out shells of buildings, no other traffic on the street. I don't know if anyone is out walking today or not because we are laying as low*

**Continued on page 77**



## It was perfect timing.

Dick Meadows phoned not a dozen days after I'd finished two years' work on a history of SOG. At last we could start his twice-postponed biography.

And what a tale to tell: Project White Star, SOG, the Son Tay Raid, Delta Force, the drug wars. Meadows had lived one adventure after another, dodging bullets on three continents for 45 years. In our caricature world of hoo-yah Rambos, Dick was genuine and unassuming, the boy next door with a CAR-15, America's Otto Skorzeny or David Sterling. No mat-

days later Dick Meadows died.

There was no one like Dick Meadows. He lived the life on which books are written — in the plural. Born in a dirt-floored West Virginia moonshiner's cabin, Meadows lied about his age in 1947 to become a 15-year-old paratrooper, then so

**Capt. Dick Meadows lived one adventure after another, dodging bullets on three continents for 45 years. In our caricature world of hoo-yah Rambos, Dick was genuine and unassuming, the boy next door with a CAR-15.**



courtesy Jim Stortler

### Major Dick Meadows

# TOP NOTCH — TOP SECRET

by John Plaster

## Special Operator's Last Patrol

ter his rank — master sergeant, captain, major — all of us in Special Forces knew him as Dick Meadows, a man who didn't need a rank to be who he was: Meadows was Meadows.

It would be a fabulous book.

"But I have a problem," Meadows announced, his soft voice hinting nothing special. "I'm dying, John."

A brick couldn't have hit so hard. Ten days earlier he'd been in Central America when fatigue so overwhelmed him that he came home. His doctor diagnosed leukemia in its final, most virulent stage.

That simply couldn't be. Though 64, Meadows looked two decades younger, fit, trim and vigorous. "How long do you have?" I asked.

"A week." True to his word, six

distinguished himself in Korea that he was that war's youngest master sergeant at age 20. The quick-learning but largely self-taught Green Beret acquired such a descriptive vo-



U.S. Air Force

**Meadows' best known mission had to be the Son Tay Raid, the November 1970 attempted rescue of American POWs from a prison 23 miles west of Hanoi. With a prison mockup in the background, Meadows (left, with megaphone) and Lt. Col. Bud Sydnor (center) rehearse the famous raid at Eglin AFB, Florida.**

cabulary and sophisticated style that it surprised people to learn he had only a ninth-grade education. The British SAS, with whom Meadows served two years on exchange in the

late '50s, thought so much of him that they entrusted him with serious responsibilities. In fact, an SAS sergeant major entrusted him with his daughter, Pamela, for a bride.

In the early '60s he deployed covertly with other Green Berets to Laos where, led by Colonel Arthur "Bull" Simons, they trained Kha tribesmen to fight the Pathet Lao and NVA. These Project White Star men were withdrawn when Laos was declared "neutral" at a Geneva conference.

It was in SOG — the top secret Studies and Observations Group — that Meadows really performed. He spent two years there, all of it running missions deep behind enemy lines in Laos and North Vietnam while leading Chinese Nung mercenaries on Recon Team Iowa.

Before each operation, Meadows built a terrain map in the dirt,

then had his whole team memorize the prominent features. "Meadows did everything meticulously, everything was rehearsed," then-Major Scotty Crerar recalled. "You could have taken a film of [his] mission prepara-





Meadows also played a yet undisclosed role in the 1979 rescue of two H. Ross Perot employees (center) from an Iranian prison — a mission led by his old boss, Col. "Bull" Simons (right).

AP/Wide World

tion and used it as a training film."

Like a martial arts master certain of his abilities, Meadows possessed an unegotistical confidence — fearless but not oblivious to danger. He was a practitioner of the tactically sublime, able to assess a situation in a glance, weigh his alternatives and act in a flash.

### A Killing Machine

Much of Meadows' reputation evolved from capturing prisoners, at which, according to then-Col. Jack Singlaub, Meadows proved SOG's most prolific — bringing back 13 NVA from Laos. He had once arrayed RT Iowa beside a trail when instead of the desired one man, five NVA strolled up and stopped right there for lunch. Meadows stepped out and announced, "Good morning, gentlemen. You are now POWs." Despite his warning: "No, no, no," three went for their AKs. So, yes, yes, yes, Meadows shot them faster than you can read this. The other two proved surprisingly compliant.

"Meadows is cunning," agreed one of SOG's most accomplished combat leaders at the time, then-Captain Ed Lesesne. "He's a killing machine, and I mean to tell you, Meadows is a calculating, cool guy."

Meadows had a knack for making history, as in 1966 when he proved North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong a liar. Pham had been insisting that not a single North Vietnamese soldier had been sent to South Vietnam, telling American anti-war activist Tom Hayden such allegations were, "a myth fabricated by the U.S. imperialists to justify their war of aggression."

Pham's deceit seemed by its

magnitude unbreachable. Was this a war of conquest from the North, or a popular revolt by South Vietnam's peasantry? General William Westmoreland couldn't offer congressional doubters a "smoking gun."

Then Meadows helped out. Lying beside Laotian Highway 110, RT Iowa watched as North Vietnamese soldiers and porters passed by. Meadows pulled from his pocket a Pen-EE camera, crawled forward and snapped a whole roll of photos.

Then he and his assistant team leader, Chuck Kearns, crawled back beyond enemy earshot and Meadows decided on an even more dangerous gambit; in Kearns' rucksack was an 8mm motion picture camera, which he'd brought along on a lark. Meadows took it, crept perilously close to the trail and began rolling, shooting a few frames of each NVA. The footage was of such perfect exposure that it came out like a

series of mug shots. For an hour Meadows lay there and recorded nearly a whole battalion — hundreds of heavily armed North Vietnamese — marching alongside porters toting loads of military supplies.

Chief SOG had Meadows personally brief his findings to Westmoreland, who couldn't help but praise Meadows and SOG. The film was rushed to Washington and presented in a closed-door briefing of select congressmen who nodded, now convinced that Hanoi was lying.

A few months later, Meadows penetrated an NVA-Laotian cache which contained Russian-made artillery pieces. The howitzers were too large to carry back, even for Meadows, so he photographed them and brought out their sights.

Again Chief SOG had Meadows brief Westmoreland, who almost hugged the intense Green Beret master sergeant when he presented a sou-

**Continued on page 70**

### America's Finest Unsung Hero

Presidential Citizens Medal Citation:

*With courage, initiative and devotion to duty, Major Richard Meadows, USA (ret), has made extraordinary contributions to the security of this nation. After enlisting in the Army at the age of 15, he became the youngest master sergeant of the Korean War. His exceptional Special Forces and civilian career included operations behind enemy lines in Vietnam for which he received a rare battlefield commission, leadership in a daring rescue attempt of POWs at Son Tay Prison near Hanoi, infiltration into Tehran for the Desert One hostage rescue mission, and a key role in establishing the elite Delta Force. Repeatedly answering our country's call and taking on the most dangerous and sensitive missions, few have been as willing to put themselves in harm's way for their fellow countrymen.*

"I mourn the passing today of Major Richard J. Meadows, USA (ret.), whose dedicated and exceptional service is cherished by everyone who knew of his extraordinary courage and selfless service.

"I recently asked General Wayne Downing, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command, to present the Presidential Citizens Medal to Major Meadows. I am gratified to know that Major Meadows' wife, Pamela, and son, Mark, a U.S. Army captain, and his daughter Michelle, will receive this award tonight at a gathering of those involved in the Son Tay Raid at Hurlbert Field. Although this now will be a posthumous award, I am pleased that Major Meadows knew of this honor before he died.

"To Major Meadows' family and friends and to the Special Operations community, I extend my heartfelt condolences. We will all remember him as a soldier's soldier and one of America's finest unsung heroes."

— President William J. Clinton

26 July 1995





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• For name of prize winner, send SASE to December '95 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306



## FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

crush fit that resulted led to chambering problems and difficult extraction. Dillon's sizing dies allow sizing either over or under SAAMI specifications and case shoulders to be set back just enough for reliable functioning in military semi-automatic and full-auto rifles.

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## MILITIA OF MCMINN

Continued from page 55

break. Windy Wise, who had shot Tom Gillespie, was repeatedly beaten. Things calmed down and the GIs posted guards. Guns from the armories were cleaned and returned before sunup.

At 0302 on 2 August, the ex-GIs released a statement recounting events: the deputies' brutality, the seizure of the ballot boxes, and the battle at the jail. They concluded, "The GI candidates had promised that the votes would be counted as cast. [They] had no choice but to meet fire with fire.

"In the precincts where the GI candidates were allowed watchers, they lead by three to one majorities."

When the ballots were counted, Knox Henry, the GI candidate, won 1,168 votes to Cantrell's 789. Other GI candidates had similar margins.

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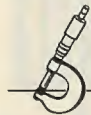


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Cantrell's spokesman conceded.

On 2 August a town meeting was held at 1600 to elect a three-man interim governing committee, headed by a Methodist minister. Since the regular police had vanished, six men were appointed to police Athens. In addition, "Individual citizens were called upon to form patrols or guard groups, often led by a GI. To their credit not a single mention of an abuse of power on their behalf was reported."

On Saturday afternoon, 3 August, a newspaper report that Mansfield planned to try to regain power drew 1,500 persons to the town square, "with every kind of armament imaginable."

Pat Mansfield resigned as sheriff on 3 August, urging Governor McCord to put Sheriff-elect Knox Henry in charge. Athens was calm. On Monday, 5 August, the election was certified and the county government accepted resignations from Cantrell and Mansfield.

The clean-up proceeded quickly: By 9 August, jailhouse windows were being fixed; on 12 August, the new officials accepted a pay limit of \$5,000/year; on 16 September new election commissioners were chosen; on 17 September replacements were chosen for resigning county officials; on 27 September, an election was held to replace resigning city officials in Athens.

The general election held on 5 November passed quietly. Republicans won control of the U.S. Congress for the first time in 16 years. Having enforced the law that required honest elections to be held, the people of McMinn County returned to their daily lives.

The notion that "law and order" is more important than the *rule of law* underpins most dictatorships. In the orderly former Soviet Union, 20 million persons were murdered by Stalin's government (1929-53). The idea that order is more important than civil rights has no place in America.

The people of McMinn County showed us when and how aggrieved Americans can and should lawfully use armed force, why citizens' access to arms must be unimpaired, and that loosely organized but well-disciplined civilians — with basic equipment — can best the forces of tyranny.

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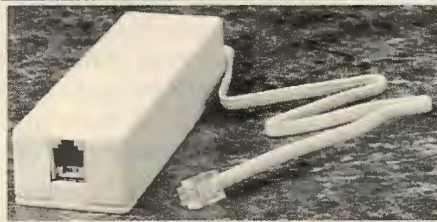
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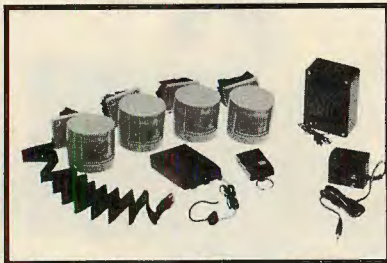
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greatest murderers in this century have not been "criminals," but officials of governments gone bad. Research from Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership shows that genocide — the murder of hundreds of thousands or tens of millions — occurs ever more frequently, made possible by "gun control." Law-abiding citizens of McMinn County won the Battle of Athens because they were not hamstrung by "gun control."

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*For the full report on the Battle of Athens, send \$3 to Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership Inc., 2872 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207; phone: 414-769-0760; fax: 414-483-8435. ✕*

## TOP NOTCH

*Continued from page 65*

venir: a Soviet-made artillery sight. Westmoreland noted, it was exactly such evidence "which finally prompted the State Department to relax its restrictions on firing into the DMZ." Deeply impressed by the sincere, quiet-spoken Green Beret, Westmoreland gave Meadows a direct commission to captain — the Vietnam War's first battlefield commission — and cited him by name in his memoirs.

In October 1966, Chief SOG Jack Singlaub chose Meadows to lead SOG's first American-led operation into the heartland of North Vietnam, to rescue a downed U.S. Navy fighter pilot. Lieutenant Deane Woods had parachuted into a heavily jungled ridgeline halfway between Vinh and Hanoi, 30 miles inland. For several days he evaded NVA searchers.

Launching by Navy helicopter off the carrier *Intrepid*, Meadows took in a 13-man team that made it within 500 yards of Lt. Woods when the NVA captured him. "A cautious soldier would have taken his men to the nearest extraction point and departed enemy territory," Singlaub said. But

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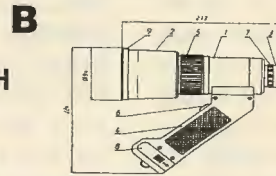
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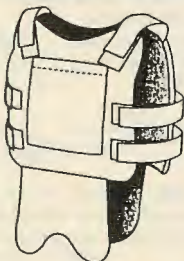
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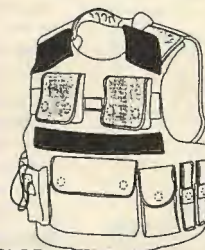
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Meadows was not overly cautious. Coming upon a major trail, Meadows set up an ambush to capture a prisoner. Momentarily, an NVA officer and three soldiers walked up, alert, still searching for Woods and apparently unaware he'd been captured.

To the NVA soldiers' astonishment, Meadows stepped from the dense foliage, leveled his AK47 and called a friendly "good morning." All four NVA went for their guns but Meadows shot first, killing them all in one blur. While his men searched the bodies, Meadows radioed for an exfil and soon they were on their way out. After the war, Meadows met Woods, who'd spent six years as a POW, and presented him with the Tokarev pistol he'd taken off the dead NVA officer.

Meadows' best known mission had to be the Son Tay Raid, the November 1970 attempted rescue of American POWs from a prison 23 miles west of Hanoi. Meadows didn't merely lead the assault element, but served as the primary trainer for the entire raiding force, teaching them everything he'd learned about close

quarters combat and small unit tactics. When the raiders landed at Son Tay, it was Meadows' voice on the megaphone that called, "We're Americans. Keep your heads down. This is a rescue. We'll be in your cells in a minute."

But Son Tay was empty, its POWs moved while the camp was being refurbished. Although an intelligence failure, the raid boosted POW morale and compelled Hanoi, at last, to cease mistreating American prisoners. Son Tay also inspired the Israeli rescue mission six years later at Entebbe, right down to the megaphone instructions to captives.

### Enjoying Retirement

Dick Meadows retired with 30 years of service in 1977, but he couldn't stay away long, especially when Col. "Chargin' Charlie" Beckwith asked him to be the civilian trainer of his newly formed counterterrorist unit, Delta Force. The adaptable Meadows applied all he knew of long-range raiding, recon and close combat, and modified it to fit the terrorism environment, resulting

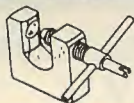
in the world's most respected counterterrorist organization.

He retired again in 1980, but a few months later he came back to assist Delta's hostage rescue in Iran. A CIA bureaucrat initially rejected Meadows as a covert advance man, calling him, "an amateur with poor cover, poor backup and poor training." Meadows told the CIA he'd go into Tehran with or without their assistance. Given those options, CIA Director Stansfield Turner approved Meadows and issued him a false Irish passport. Apparently, Iranian immigration couldn't tell the difference between an Irish brogue and a West Virginia twang, because they waved Meadows — posing as "Richard Keith," a European auto company executive — right through customs.

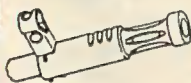
The Carter administration had gutted the CIA of operatives capable of reconning the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, leaving Delta Force planners without the tactical details they needed. Meadows surveilled the embassy, reconned Delta Force's planned route into the city and watched for any hint of hostile countersurveillance

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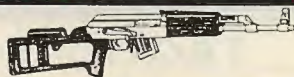
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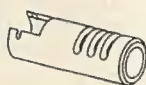
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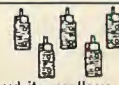
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at the warehouse in which the CIA and a Green Beret advance team had hidden Delta's trucks and gear.

Meadows would guide the Delta raiders, then join them in the assault — but they never got to him. Deep in the Iranian desert, Delta's mission was aborted after two aircraft collided and the helicopters had to be abandoned. But in their rush to escape, the chopper pilots haphazardly left behind documents that disclosed Meadows' warehouse location. Due to satellite communications problems, Meadows did not learn what had happened for 24 hours and barely escaped into Turkey.

Meadows also played a yet undisclosed role in the 1979 rescue of two H. Ross Perot employees from an Iranian prison — a mission led by his old boss, Col. "Bull" Simons. It was also the basis of the 1983 bestseller, *On Wings Of Eagles*.

Despite an affinity for bass fishing, Meadows still could not retire. In the mid-1980s he volunteered to operate an aircraft refueling front in the Caribbean to ensnare Colombian drug cartel smugglers. Then he oper-

ated for a decade in Peru, helping plantation owners and businesses defend themselves from *Sendero Luminoso* terrorists who'd have liked nothing more than to put a bullet through him — they never got close.

Twice he told me he'd become frustrated by inadequacies in the "war on drugs," and doubted U.S. sincerity. Though he was not on the government payroll, many times over the past decade he helped "the community," in ways which must remain unsaid. Several times he negotiated the release of kidnap victims in South America.

Within weeks of his death, Meadows was still active in Central America. During his career he'd been awarded every U.S. valor award except the Medal of Honor. "If he hadn't done so many things that are classified, he'd have been the most decorated soldier in the Army," Col. Elliot "Bud" Sydnor, the ground force commander at Son Tay, told *Newsweek* magazine for a 1982 cover story.

When Perot learned of Meadows' imminent death, he reportedly phoned President Clinton to see that he was

awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal. It was presented posthumously to his family by the U.S. SOCOM commander, Gen. Wayne Downing, who relayed the president's condolences and called Meadows, "one of America's finest unsung heroes."

Facing the certainty of death in his last week, he told me, "It's like I'm preparing for one last patrol." In those final days, Downing assured Meadows there would be a SOCOM award for young special operators to commemorate his name. Having come so close at Son Tay and in Tehran, Dick once told me his only unfulfilled wish in life was, "to lead one that succeeded." That's the job now for younger men he and his record will inspire, perhaps a recipient of the award that bears his name.

*Major Plaster, a SOG veteran and author of The Ultimate Sniper, has a new book, SOG: The Secret Wars, to be published in the spring. Dick Meadows' biography is being prepared by British writer Alan Hoe, who recently authored a well-received book on SAS founder David Sterling.* ✕

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**SIERRA LEONE**

*Continued from page 37*

out in a mortar attack.

Later this year Roelf plans to attack Foday Sankoh headquarters at Joi Koi, a strongly held camp in an almost unassailable position between the Moa River and the Kambui Forest Reserve. Significantly, it's only a day's march from the Liberian border.

"We've flown over the place, but they usually reply with everything they have," said Alberts. "They used RPG-7s by the dozen, coming up at us all the time we were there."

By the time I arrived in mid-August of this year Sierra Leone was fairly stable once more. There were still ambushes on some of the roads in the south, but on the whole, Freetown was secure and the diamond fields were once more in production. EO had by then trained three large groups of soldiers.

For Executive Outcomes the main objective has always been to get the Sierra Leonian army up to scratch, which meant radical retraining. "Everything that they had ever learned in the past, or tried to learn, we threw out the window and began again from the ground up. *Everything!*" said Brown.

"There was no intelligence service. I had to create one. The problems of elementary supply, communications and transport had to be solved." He had to provide such fundamental instruction as how to use a rifle.

Booze and drugs — previously items of issue — were prohibited. The troops protested loudly, but after their first sober ambush on the Bo Road drove off their attackers, they began to see reason. It was even better a few weeks later after Brown was able to put them on the offensive in a counterattack near Mile 91, one of the hot spots of the war.

Will EO be able to retrain the entire army? They are hopeful, even though three-quarters of the 4 million inhabitants of Sierra Leone are illiterate. EO's cadre are professional trainers and most of their black soldiers are from southern Africa. They were trained and blooded in the Angola war. You won't find better soldiers.

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I took part (two ambushes in one day to the east of Kuido, convoy duties and an attack on an enemy camp on top of a hill), it was the black soldiers of EO with a select Sierra Leone detachment each time who led the column.

The pay scale is, of course, according to rank, but nobody in EO earns less than U.S. \$1,500 a month. Senior officers get three or four times that. The men get two weeks off every two months on full pay and they have to take it. Leave cannot be accumulated. The same applies to EO men in Angola, where fighting has been fierce and the company has suffered casualties.

The essential function of EO in the endless succession of African wars is instruction, protection and organization. They also take part in operations with their charges. When they get shot at they reply with vigor. They are happy to carry out preemptive strikes if it means it will save lives.

Relations between EO and the Sierra Leone armed forces appear to be good. All EO radio communications are exclusively in Afrikaans, not so much from tribal patriotism as to prevent the enemy from understanding clear transmission. Much of the radio traffic is in code anyway; EO uses the same frequency-hopping transmitters that the South African army deployed in Angola during the '70s and '80s.

### Butcher Brothers

Sankoh makes much in his publicity handouts and broadcasts of "freeing my fellow citizens from the abuses and corruption of the country's military leaders." He has a case. It is backed by many years of misrule, corruption and injustice. Nepotism within government is rife. The military fat cats on top of the pile in Freetown all have foreign bank accounts. Some regularly take a cut from illegal diamond exports from Lebanese merchants who have systematically exploited the national resources.

But by destroying villages and brutally murdering their inhabitants, the RUF has greatly weakened any hope for its own "cause." No one appears to have told Sankoh about the fundamental principle taught by Mao of swimming like fish in the water of

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the population. Again, the mind-numbing atrocities by RUF's mentors in Liberia across the border have done nothing to help him. He launched his war from there. It is an open secret that Sankoh and the Butcher, as Charles Taylor is called in most West African news reports, are brothers-in-arms.

For that reason alone Sankoh and his followers will lose their war. Already their resources are largely exhausted. But it will still need much effort and a high degree of dedication by the government and by mercenary outfits like EO to dictate the course of the war.

At present the RUF may burn a village, slaughter innocents or destroy some vehicles in a convoy, but its organization has already been marginalised by its own excesses. The sad thing is that the RUF onslaught in Sierra Leone has shown how easy it is to start a guerrilla war in Africa. It requires only a handful of disaffected troops, a few crates of AKs and perhaps a little support from outside. With men like Khadaffi to turn to, rebels and ban-

ditions need never lack the means.

It may be that the trouble in Sierra Leone will not be the last African war that black and white South African soldiers will have a hand in. Back in Freetown, I put the charge that the company was using mercenaries to EO officer Lafras Luitingh. He was candid: "Call them what you like — mercenaries, profiteers, soldiers of fortune, or simply soldiers — Executive Outcomes is a very professional organization. It was through our efforts in Angola that Jonas Savimbi was forced to seek an end to hostilities.

"As a consequence of that, there is now peace, or rather, relative peace in Angola. Even the Angolan government will attest to that. The same here in Sierra Leone. Had we not gone in when we did and pushed the rebels out of the suburbs of Freetown, you would have the same situation here that you have in Liberia. Does anyone really want that? Do the people need such anarchy? And does it matter who or what was used to prevent that scenario from becoming a reality?"

"There is only so much that we, as a training organization, can do. We also know that we are not going to be there forever. Nor do we want to be. So that's why we spend so much time and effort to train local armies to do the job they need to do, and, frankly, we seem to have been quite good at it. Anyhow, that's what we're paid for ... we teach the secrets."

I asked who was picking up the EO tab in Sierra Leone, as I had heard that the oil companies had financed the Angolan operation. "Is De Beers involved?" I asked. After all, they have just been granted a big alluvial diamond concession on one of the rivers near the coast and they must have done something to have earned their spurs.


"Nothing like that at all. In fact, we've been disavowed by De Beers. They are quite hostile to us in Freetown even though its their bacon that we've saved as well."

"Is EO actually taking part in military operations when yours is really a training role?" I asked. Luitingh looked at me carefully before answering.


"We don't look to involve our-

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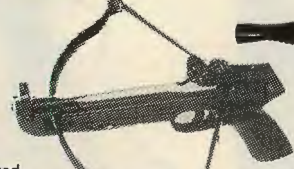
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selves in battle. Things can go wrong. That can become expensive. We help others prepare for it. But if I and my commanders feel that our men are likely to be placed in situations where they are threatened and where some of them can be killed, or injured, I will take whatever preemptive measures that I consider necessary to counter that threat. All my men are professionals with much experience in combat. None of them take unnecessary chances."

Then I asked the obvious: "Are there other wars in which EO is likely to be involved?"

"Of course there are many small wars in the world today ... too many people ... too much conflict. We've even had an offer to go into Bosnia, but that's a piece of history we've declined. We're not stupid.

"At present the company is negotiating to help in military training programs on two other continents. And when it happens, I promise you, you will be astonished," he said.

*Al Venter has written dozens of articles as contributing editor for Africa. ✕*

## AMATEURS & ASSASSINS

*Continued from page 43*

wrought profound changes in his thinking, including a rejuvenation of his belief in the nation's justice system. He rejected his status as a folk hero.

"I never, ever wanted to lead anybody anywhere," he said, humility and sadness in his voice. "I just want to be left alone and get on with my life... I was always a pretty compassionate person, but I'm a hell of a lot more compassionate now. After I've seen what happened to my loved ones..." Choking back tears, he was unable to finish the sentence.

His hopes for the future include seeing his surviving three daughters "with happy families. Maybe some grandkids. Living in peace. Oh, yeah ... I owe so many people so many thanks, so many apologies."

*Next month: The Ruby Ridge shoot-out and the Vicki Weaver assassination in the words of Randy Weaver, the U.S. Marshals and Horiuchi's fellow snipers. ✕*

## HARD ROAD HOME

*Continued from page 63*

*as our buttons allow us to.*

*It is 1649 hours and we are stopped at a checkpoint. Is it Bosnian or French? It is French. A couple of young men just leaned over the truck bed and asked for our passports, which gives the Serbs ... how did you put it Hogan?*

"It gives them time to know exactly where to shoot," I said. Brown talked to his tape recorder again as the two French privates went away with our passports.

*It is now 1700 hours and we are cutting it close because in another hour CNN will come onto every Serb television set in Sarajevo. I will never forget the beautiful gray sky, the bright purple thistles and all the other weeds growing in this dismal, dismal spot...*

### "Allies" With An Agenda

We had been sitting at the French checkpoint for 20 minutes — plenty of time for the French to notify the Serbs at Lukavica Barracks — when

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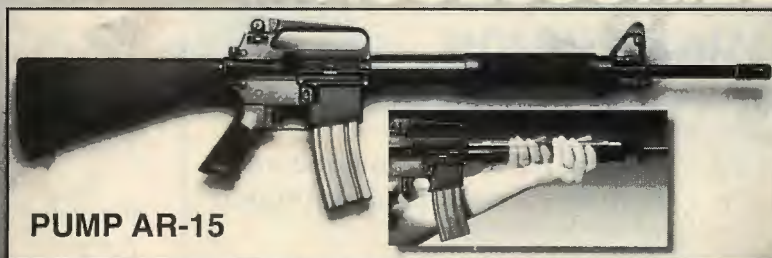


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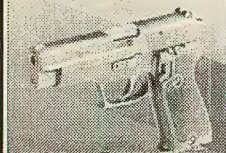
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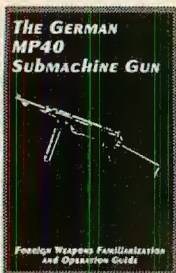


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Jordan came back and stuck his head over the side to let us know what was going on.

"Do you think the Frogs would shoot an American," asked Jordan, "for lifting the gate? Yeah maybe so. I asked them if we could come inside so I could see if they are calling the Serbs or not, but they wouldn't let me in. I asked if they would let us into the bunker if the shit started coming in and they said 'yes.' Yeah, damn right they would."

"There's only two of them," someone noted. "The first mortar round comes in, we'll just run over their asses and go on in their bunker."

"By the way," said Jordan, "these guys say they are familiar with the sniper who shot up the trucks yesterday. They say he is here all the time and that he is at 100 meters out."

The minutes dragged on and it began to drizzle. A large-caliber machine gun opened up in the distance. Just then Jordan reappeared. "We got another problem. The Frogs were about to let us through and this Land Rover pulled up. Don't stick your heads up to look, we don't want them to know how many of us are here, it might make the situation worse."

Jordan continued to give a play by play to those of us lying flat in the truck bed. "OK, in the Land Rover we have a Bosnian brigadier and his wife and kid, and a Bosnian colonel and a British major or captain. I don't know the brigadier but I know the Brit; he is the liaison with the Bosnians. They are arguing now, the brigadier is telling the Frog that this is his country and he can go wherever he wants and they have no right to stop him. Guys, we may have to ram the gate and get the hell out of here. If the Serbs know this guy is here they are liable to send some bad guys in after him."

I interrupted, "Jordan, where are the passports? Get the goddamn passports and we'll crash the gate."

"Oh shit," Jordan said. "The brigadier is reaching for his holster. Shit. They may shoot it out right here."

As Jordan dropped off the side of the truck I yelled after him, "Get the passports."

We had been sitting nearly an hour now, and that was almost enough time to get 20 snipers in position.

I began thinking that Sarajevo might not be such a bad place to be

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stuck after all, just as the pipe gate was lifted and Barrett drove forward. Everyone was suddenly silent and the tension was heavy in anticipation when the truck engine was suddenly turned off. Jordan's head popped over the side of the truck again.

"We're through the gate now so fuck 'em, but we don't have the passports back yet and I'm getting sick of this shit. They let the Bosnian go through around us, but they are holding us back because they say one of their armored personnel carriers got in an accident or something up ahead. They still have our passports."

Jordan's voice changed a bit, for the first time he sounded a little concerned, a fact which didn't do much for the confidence of the rest of us. "I'm trying to be nice with these guys, I'm not being an asshole, but I gotta get out of here. My mortgage company doesn't give a shit that French troops won't let me out of Sarajevo. We delivered humanitarian aid and it is time to leave now. By now the Serbs have had a chance to rag their French friends about yesterday and, who knows, maybe they have gotten the word to start some shit. Maybe that is what they are waiting for. Whatever happens they have no right to hold me hostage in Sarajevo. They can hold the truck but they can't hold me and I will start walking across this tarmac very soon and take my chances with the Serbs."

Hoofing it across the tarmac was not good — there were too many of us and we would be strung out in a nice pattern for the machine gunners or mortar crews. We would be better off either taking our passports away from this guy or forgetting about them and driving on ahead.

Another long minute or two passed and we had just about decided to take our passports off this French private's dead body when he handed them to Jordan, who threw himself into the back of the truck and suddenly we were speeding off across the tarmac and into harm's way. Doc Rodriguez who was wearing a flak vest lay across my body to give me a little protection since my vest was protecting the driver. I expected to hear the report of a sniper's rifle and his rounds cracking into the truck, but the only noises were from the truck's engine and gears.

It was still daylight when we ar-



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rived at the last Bosnian checkpoint before the Mount Igman road. The guards refused to let us pass, and several other trucks were pulled off to the side of the road. Barrett told us that what we thought was a ploy to set us up for the Serbs back at the French checkpoint was the same thing the Bosnians were telling us: A French VAB had fallen off the road and tumbled down the mountain. Three French troops had been killed and they were holding up traffic while the French tried to do a recovery.

**Don't Stand Next To Me!**

When we pulled the big, white truck to the side, the Bosnian troops at the guard post told us to get the hell out of there. The convoy wouldn't get underway over Igman until around 2300 and they didn't want us hanging around drawing fire. They knew that we were a prime target for everyone and didn't want us nearby. As we started down the road an AK47 opened up on us from close range, and we all went down as the rounds buzzed over us. Barrett put the pedal to the metal.

From the location we knew it was the Bosnians shooting at us this time. They weren't really targeting us, it was just a warning. They didn't want us parked near their houses drawing Serb mortar fire.

We went back to the Hrasnica fire house and waited for nightfall. As we waited, Mark Milstein wandered off in a cammo poncho. He was standing in front of the grocery store, his arms full of chocolate and sodas, when someone shot at him. The round landed near his feet and the chocolate and soda went flying. Milstein's foot had just begun working well again after the last time he was wounded, and when he came back to the fire house he was in a bad humor about it.

About 2200 we returned to the checkpoint at the base of the Igman road. It was raining, black, and we were grateful. After a few hours most of us settled down and snoozed fitfully as the skyline periodically lit up with explosions.

It was about 0400 the next morning when Barrett started the engine and we began moving up the moun-

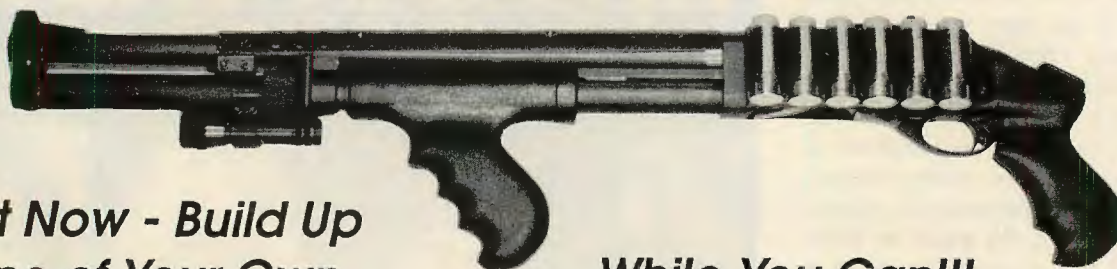
tain. We were about the seventh truck back as we wound around to the start of the road and put our big white tail toward the Serb with the 20mm gun.

Brown lost interest and started to doze off. I woke him up after a few minutes and pointed down the mountain. It was almost daylight and we could see. The weather had held for us, it was still raining and the cloud cover was low. The Serb gunners couldn't see us anymore and we were home free.

Further down the road we were held up in Mostar while a motorcade went by. It was the Bosnian president being followed by the Iranian ambassador. The Iranians were supplying his arms, and all we had brought were \$45,000 worth of Scott Air-Paks and \$10,000 worth of medicine. About the only real help that Sarajevo was getting from the Americans thus far was coming from SOF, Doc Rodriguez, John Jordan and the volunteer firemen.

*John H. Hogan is a Vietnam vet with extensive experience in Bosnia*

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and Croatia. Part I of this chronicle appeared in the November issue. ✂

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## I WAS THERE

Continued from page 22

door burst open and two field grade Marine officers entered: One was Lt. Col. Beall. It was time to accept the consequences, so I stepped out from behind the curtain.

"Good morning, Colonel," I said.

"Good morning, Lieutenant, good to see you survived the trip down the mountain!" Beall com-

mented, with a twinkle.

"Yes, sir," I responded.

"Come by my headquarters when we get to our destination. I want to discuss that young man under your command and his promotion to corporal."

A week later, true to his word, Beall sent down the paperwork returning my "lost" stripe.

Each year, members of B Company, 1st MTB, 1st MarDiv, gather in San Diego. The week-long festivity is solemnized by a visit to Fort Rosecrans Military Cemetery. At the grave of Lt. Col. Olin Beall, silent prayers are said over our hero — not only a great warrior and humanitarian, but "a tough old bird," who did indeed, walk on water. ✂

## SHADOW WAR

Continued from page 57

to a tape recorder hidden in nearby brush. Remaining until their tapes were exhausted, the three guerrillas then returned to their border camp

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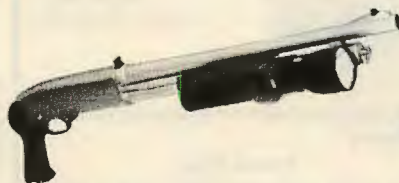
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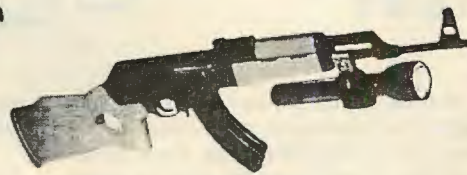
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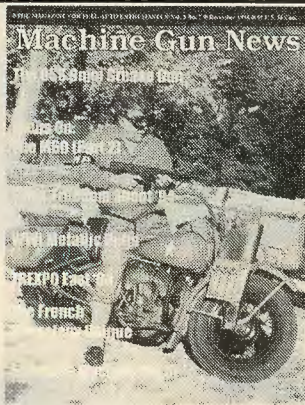
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took the defenders by surprise and dropped their ordnance, killing four people but causing little damage to structures. As the aircraft commenced their second run, Phou Phathi's defenders responded with small-arms fire, damaging the lead AN-2. An Air America chopper in the vicinity spotted the damaged biplane through the cloud cover and initiated pursuit, intending to bring it down with small-arms fire. That proved unnecessary, however, and the damaged aircraft began to waver, then plunged into the jungle and exploded. The chopper crew then turned their attention to the second biplane. Closing fast, the chopper's crew chief leaned out the door and took it under fire with an AK47. The biplane was hit, went into a lazy arc, then plunged into the heavy jungle but did not explode. Later the AN-2's carcass, minus the wings that had been torn off in the crash, was sling-loaded back to Vientiane, where it was put on display.

Despite the failure of their air attack, the communists continued their offensive against Phou Phathi, slowly encircling the camp and isolating the defenders. A full-scale ground assault was launched in early March that finally succeeded in overrunning the camp. Much of the fighting was at very close quarters, and a number of USAF technicians who manned the sophisticated equipment were killed, and some of the equipment captured. The authors supply a wealth of hitherto unknown detail about different aspects of the battle, and its impact on bombing policy against North Vietnam.

Conboy and Morrison also score an impressive number of "firsts," reporting in-depth on sensitive operations absent from most other wartime accounts of Laos. They chronicle in detail the exploits of the Commando Raiders, who carried the war into North Vietnam, and also tell for the first time the full story behind the largest successful POW raid of the war. Their unique access to sources also permits them to reveal, for the first time, the inside story of the CIA's most daring operation in Indochina: wiretapping the North Vietnamese city of Vinh.

In summary, *Shadow War* is an exceptional book, successfully combining first-rate scholarship with well-crafted combat reportage. The



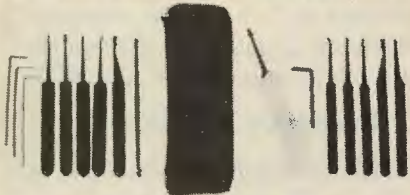
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footnotes are comprehensive, the maps well detailed, and the photo selection outstanding. This book should be required reading for all students of the Indochina conflict, scholar as well as layman, and will successfully stand the test of time.

*Shadow War: The CIA's Secret War in Laos* by Kenneth Conboy with James Morrison, is available from Paladin Press, Dept. SOF, Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306 for \$49.95, plus \$4.50 shipping/handling.

*For nearly three decades F.C. Brown has followed events in Southeast Asia. He is author of POW/MIA Indochina: An Annotated Bibliography (3rd edition).* ❧

## FEDS, FUN & FASCISTS

Continued from page 53

deny this, and both say they are willing — and eager — to take a polygraph, something they also challenge Rightmyer to do.

## Non-Profit, Non-Political?

In a telephone interview, Morris Dees, head of the SPLC, minimized the allegations of racism at the roundup and suggested the video had been faked. "The question is, who put up that sign and how long did it stay up?"

"This is ridiculous," Hayward said. "If I was disgruntled, why would I wait five years to release this videotape? I have been consistent and truthful from the beginning."

"If the ADL or Morris Dees had photos of us handing out Federal Nigger Hunting Licenses, making cruel T-shirts, ridiculing minorities or dressing in Klan robes, we would be featured on the front page of their so-called intelligence reports," said Randall, adding that such groups function more like political action committees than non-partisan, not-for-profit civil rights organizations. He accused them of unfairly painting all militia groups with a broad brush of racism to foment fear as a fundraising tool, and to promote a left-wing agenda of gun control and other liberal causes.

Further complicating the debate over the video is an effort by the Justice Department to obtain the origi-

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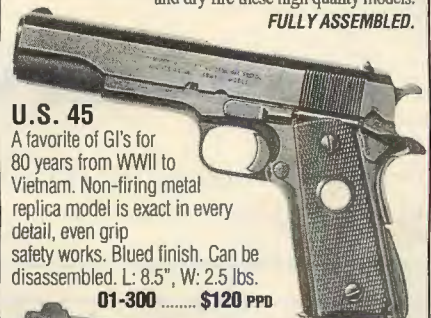
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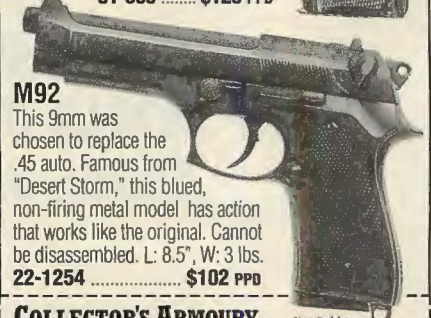
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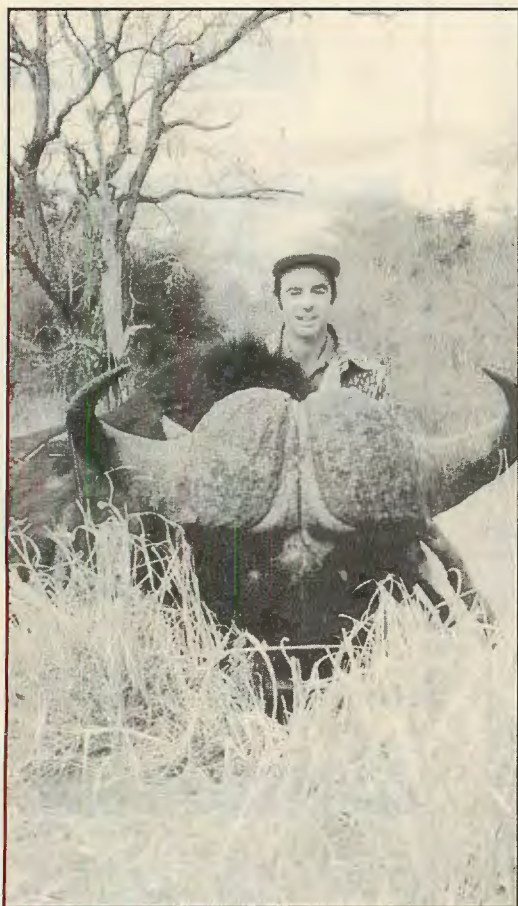
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nal cassette for a technical analysis to determine its authenticity. Mike Seibert, Randall's attorney, said his client is willing to make the original available, with the FBI present, for independent analysis, but he will not surrender custody to the FBI.

"These are the same people who shredded documents in the Weaver case," Seibert said. "These are the same people who manufactured evidence in the Weaver case and destroyed the crime scene in Waco. We are eager to validate the technical authenticity of the video. But we are not about to surrender its custody."

### Lawmen's Retribution

Hayward said he also fears that he or his family could be exposed to possible retribution by lawmen because the same video contains segments of events in which his wife and children could be identified, including a birthday party, a wedding and a Little League baseball game. Initially, Hayward declined to be identified in press reports. When Seibert refused to surrender custody of the tape, he said Justice Department investigators Paul Benners and Barbara Grewe threatened to expose Hayward's real identity.

DOJ spokesman Carl Stern denied that such threats were made. But a tape recording of the conversations between Seibert, Benners and Grewe reviewed by *SOF* confirm attempts to coerce surrender of the video. "His anonymity is gone tomorrow," Grewe told Seibert at one point, if the tape was not surrendered.

Even if Randall, Hayward and their video are removed from the equation, there is ample evidence that the Good O' Boy Roundup has been every bit as tawdry and tainted as they claim.

When *The Washington Times* broke the story on 11 July about the whites-only law enforcement bash, it was not a revelation to some top officials in the ATF. Director John Magaw testified at a hastily called congressional hearing that he learned of it in June, when a computer bulletin board posting on the Internet of an article from the Gadsden Minutemen newsletter was brought to his attention. In congressional testimony in July, Magaw said he had immediately ordered an investigation.

But others at ATF, including an



associate general counsel, knew of allegations about the gathering's racist themes as early as January, something Magaw said he had not been told. A class-action lawsuit filed by black ATF agents, alleging systematic racial discrimination within the bureau management's hiring and promotion practices, has been dragging on for years. (An ATF source involved in the lawsuit told *Soldier Of Fortune* at this writing in mid-September that a settlement was imminent "any day now.")

### Whites Only Kingdom

In a sworn deposition taken 24 January, ATF Special Agent Dondi O. Albritton, one of the suit's plaintiffs, told ATF Associate Chief Counsel Michelle Davis King and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bernadette C. Sargeant, who are defending the bureau, "It was known throughout ATF that this occurs every year... No blacks have ever been invited to this. It's strictly white agents that go... Rightmyer had his own kingdom in Knoxville, Tennessee, and they would have the Good O' Boys Roundup every year, which ATF knew about. I even heard white agents say they were going to attend... So it wasn't something that was kept under the table."

Albritton's sworn statement also advised ATF management that Rightmyer used ATF stationery and envelopes to send out invitations, which listed an ATF office telephone number for people to call who planned to attend.

An ATF public affairs official, Susan McCarron, told *The Washington Times* that ATF had been aware that Rightmyer had improperly used government materials to promote a private party, and that the matter had been resolved when he was "admonished" for the impropriety in 1988. But, as *The Washington Times* reported, Rightmyer — who is now retired with pension and full benefits — as recently as this spring used ATF telephone and post office box numbers to coordinate registration for the four-day party.

At least 10 ATF agents attended this year, Director Magaw testified to Congress, among more than 300 federal, state and local law enforcement agents from the eastern United States and Canada. Magaw said he was "appalled" by what he'd heard

about the racially oriented behavior of some party-goers, and confirmed Randall's claim that a black agent who was taken this year as the guest of two white agents departed hastily after noticing "the racial undercurrents of other participants."

Ironically caught in the crossfire of the controversy are some police officers who are guilty mainly of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Federal officials reportedly contacted 50,000 federal employees in an attempt to find out who had attended. Video and photographs were used to identify and then question police officers from Washington, D.C. And a man wearing the Birmingham, Alabama, narcotics shirt was identified as Lt. Pat Curry of the Birmingham Police Department, a city synonymous with 1960s civil rights clashes in which blacks were sprayed with firehoses, bitten by police dogs and beaten by the cops.

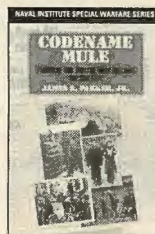
There is no published evidence, however, that Curry, a 22-year police veteran, engaged in any misconduct, of a racist nature or otherwise, during the Good O' Boy Roundup. Randall, who said he talked to Curry at the event, described him as "a real nice guy" and expressed regret that the published photos had resulted in Curry being investigated by his department.

But Birmingham Police Chief Johnnie Johnson, citing the city's image during the 1960s as a symbol of racist oppression and news reports of racist sentiments by roundup participants, said circumstances demanded that Curry's attendance at the event be scrutinized. "My concern when I first saw this was that we are trying to change our image in Birmingham," Curry's boss said. "If officers are putting themselves in that light, it is going to be a difficult thing to do."

If federal agencies and civil rights organizations will exercise similar diligence, maybe more light and less heat can be brought to bear to get to the slimy bottom of the Good O' Boy Roundup, and federal law enforcement agencies can get their weird act out of the barnyard and into space.

*James L. Pate is a contributing editor specializing in monitoring government agencies and their abuses of power. ✕*

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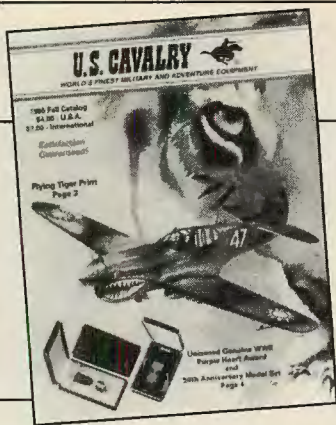


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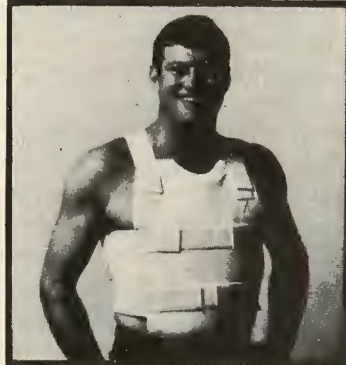
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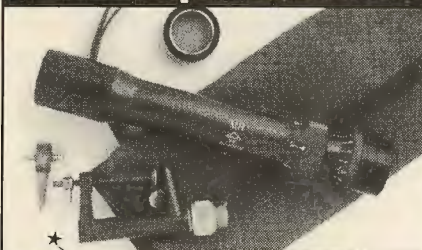
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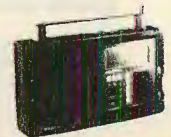
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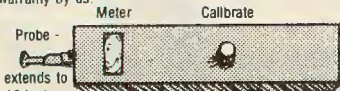
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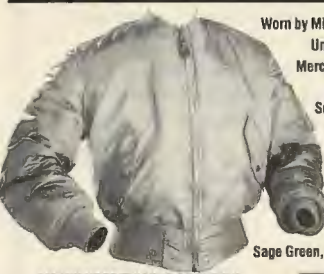
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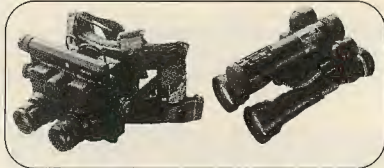
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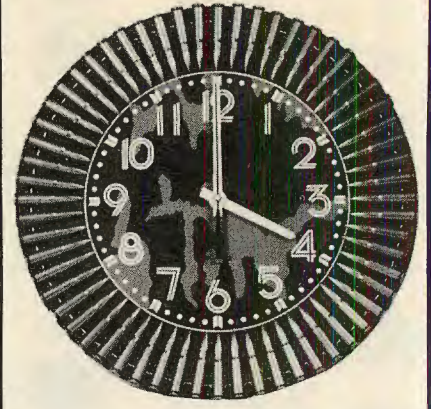


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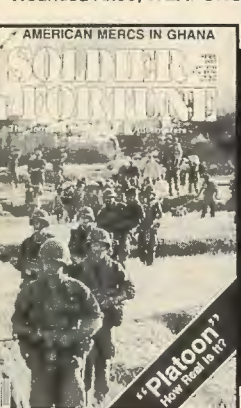
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**#119 September 1987:** COMBAT REPORTS — Contra Redeyes down Sandinista chopper; SADF Pathfinders shoot it out with SWAPO; Brit officer corners Omani rebels in Dhofar; WEAPONS — Brit's new SA80; SOF T&Es Chinese weapons Pt. 1: small arms.

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**#121 November 1987:** COMBAT REPORTS — Soviets destroy Afghan village; Rhodesia Fire-force callout; DOMESTIC AFFAIRS — Drugs, feds and 'free-lancers' in California's emerald triangle; Police battle Indians at Wounded Knee; WEAPONS — Ruger 77/22 with sound suppressor; SOF T&Es Chinese weapons Pt. 3: sub-machine guns.

**#122 December 1987:** DOMESTIC AFFAIRS — Ollie North's secret slide show; ELITE UNITS — British SAS; Spike team in Laos 1968; SOUTH AMERICA — Legionnaires AWOL in Suriname; WEAPONS — Colt .45; Chinese knife pistol; Mossberg M500 shotgun; .38 Specials.



**#123 January 1988:** DOMESTIC AFFAIRS — Spetsnaz invade America; U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division; VIETNAM — America's missed opportunity to invade the north; BURMA — Open season on Duck Mountain; SOF correspondent jailed; AFRICA — SOF rescues missionaries from Mozambique; WEAPONS — SOF T&Es Chinese weapons Pt. 4: tank killers.

**#124 February 1988:** AFRICA — Eritrea's fatal females; ELITE UNITS — U.S. Navy SEALs in Libya; VIETNAM — Spike team shot out of Laos; SPAIN — "Foreign" legion for nationals only; WEAPONS — Sandinista footpoppers; Army's M9 bayonet; SOF T&Es Chinese weapons Pt. 5: general purpose MGs.

**#125 March 1988:** CAMBODIA — Walking through two ambushes; Living off the jungle; SRI LANKA — Indian troops fail to keep the peace; VIETNAM — NVA meets American secret weapon; Little Larry Dring, the great scrounger; WEAPONS — SOF T&Es Chinese weapons Pt. 6: Type 63 rifle and new grenade launcher.

**#126 April 1988:** AFGHANISTAN — U.S. media spreads disinformation; Four battles that turned the tide; Endgame: Soviets and mujockey for position; ARABIA — Royal Marine leads Omanis through ambush alley; VIETNAM — Two-tour vet flies his last mission over North Vietnam; WEAPONS — SOF T&Es Chinese weapons Pt. 7: pistols.

**#127 May 1988:** COMBAT REPORTS — Siege in Angola; On patrol in Philippines; Night battle in Afghanistan; DRUG WAR — Soviets import drugs to western Europe; Bekaa Valley drugs fuel endless conflict; DOMESTIC AFFAIRS — Bragg's Scout Recon and Surveillance Course. VIETNAM — Spectre gunships over Laos.

**#128 June 1988:** COMBAT REPORTS — Direct hit on Afghan militia fort; Cleaning up Philippines murder city; American adviser with Salvadoran paras during strike on Guazapa; VIETNAM — la Drang aerial ambush; WEAPONS — Most often-used handguns; .45 vs 9mm; Last chapter in SOF's look at Chinese weapons, Pt. 8: hand grenades.

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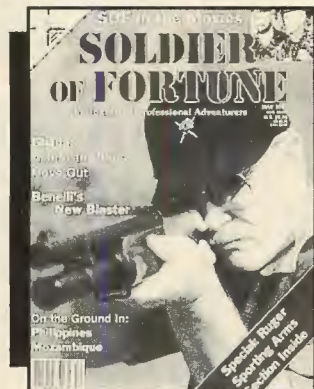
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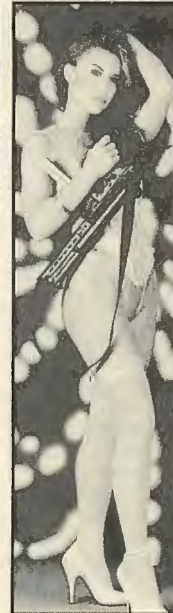
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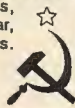
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# PARTING SHOT

## Not On My Watch!

by Col. David Hackworth

**C**ol. David Hackworth, America's most decorated living soldier and a frequent contributor to SOF, writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

Veterans Day has different meanings for different folks. For many, it's a day to kick back. For others, it's for watching old men, some squeezed into uniforms from another era and for another body, shuffle down Main Street.

For veterans — the majority white-thatched, brittle and bent — it's a day of speeches, bugles and drums, quiet and not so quiet assemblies where a drink or two goes down as the GIs talk of "the good old days." Of barracks, soldiering, the derring-do, the battles fought. And always there's the remembering, remembering of the dead pals — those buddies whose luck ran out on the beaches of Omaha, the mountains of Kumhwa, the jungles of Dak To, the waters of the Persian Gulf, the skies over Baghdad, the slums of Mogadishu.

The battle memories

are the hardest part. The horror of war never goes away, dialing up during sleep to replay its grim nightmares or flipping on when a car backfires or a door slams shut. Nor do the faces of the friends who fell disappear. Their images sit front and center in our brains, forever yesterday-young, their deeds and death deeply recorded and recited by

ones: the Vietnams, the Lebanons, the Panamas and the Somalias — where our cause was unjust or uncertain and where Americans died in vain. We should find out who was responsible for the miscalculations and look deeply into how we can prevent more of our youth from being so savagely wasted.

Many vets today are

**Did we fight and work so hard to watch our land and people become wasted and ruined?**

rote like the storyteller's serial number.

Veterans Day should be a day for vets to sound off to those who know the lingo and the lies. Vets understand each other. They have a special shared danger-bonding that helps many in the healing, which in one lifetime is never 100%. Their warrior talk blows away the loneliness that comes from being unable to explain what happened to them to others who didn't make the journey.

This day should be one of serious reflection to every American, not just about putting up our feet or talking about when we were young and brave. We need to think about the wars that were just — World War I, World War II and Korea — and the bad

asking just what the hell they fought for. They say the "great sucking sound" is the values and ideals that made the United States of America the land of opportunity flushing down the toilet.

They say try walking down a dark street in most towns in America without feeling you're on patrol deep behind enemy lines. Take a look at our rivers, our forests, our ecosystem and pretend you're not wandering through Death Valley. Look at our youth, who have little future beyond serving burgers and no hope to ever make it as their grandparents did. Examine our sidewalks littered with needles from drugs that threaten our young from within more than any enemy from without. See

our pork-driven, self-serving politicians buy still more wonder weapons to fight an enemy that's not there, while feathering their nests with retirement programs fit for kings. Listen to the political campaigns so gutter-disgusting they make mud-wrestling look like an intellectual sport and Joe McCarthy look like a choirboy. And don't raise your voice when scum burn our flag or make a mockery of our laws, because that's not politically correct in an America where few people have the guts to stand tall.

Did we fight and work so hard to watch our land and people become wasted and ruined? Bill Clinton said at Normandy last June, "...America is the way it is today because of what people gave up 50 years ago." He got it wrong. America is the way it is today because too many of us who served switched off after we took off our uniforms, expecting the politicians to take over the watch and protect what we fought for.

So, have a good Veterans Day, but after the celebration, take charge of our country again. There are 27 million of you out there, not to mention a few hundred million non-veterans. You're the makings of some Revolutionary Army. Which, if you think about it, is what started "America the Beautiful" in the first place! ✕





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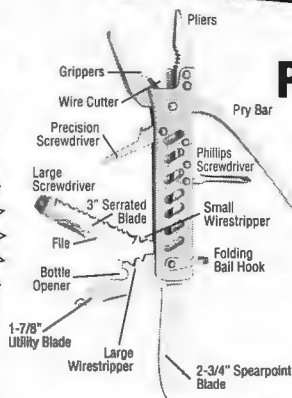
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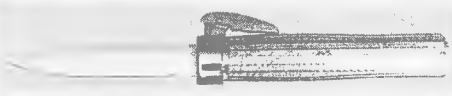
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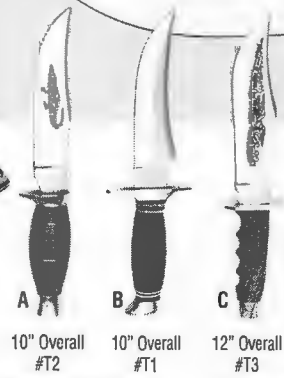
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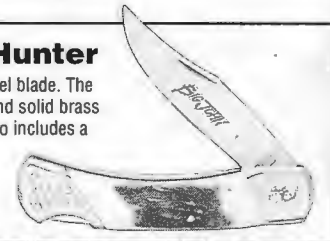
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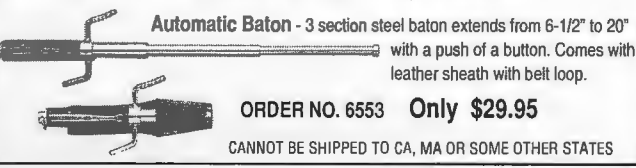
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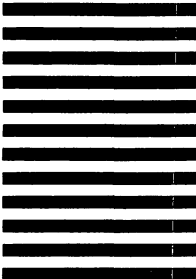
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